FRIDAY
June 2, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

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2014 - 2023

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- Today, we record an unparalleled quantum leap in GSDP, from Rs. 5.05 lakh crores in 2014, to Rs. 14 lakh crores.
- Our per capita increased from Rs. 1,24,104 to Rs. 3,17,115, Rs. 1.46 lakh higher than national average, it is the highest in India.
- The waters of the world's largest lift-irrigation project, Kaleshwaram, executed in just 3.5 years, irrigate our once-dry lands.
- With 24 hour free power to farmers, uninterrupted power to all sectors, we are the first in per capita power utilisation across India.
- Our capital city Hyderabad won global 'livability' Mercer awards for five years in a row, highlighting the quality of life.
- The jump in green cover in Telangana by 7.8% of the total geographical area is unprecedented, as declared by the Forest Survey of India.
- Mission Bhagiratha delivers drinking water via pipelines to each home in the state, urban and rural, the only state in India to do so. Many states are replicating the mission to ensure safe drinking water to their people.
- Mission Kakatiya's revival of 47,000 networked water tanks, brings back life and livelihood to each village, dramatically increasing the water table level across the state.
- Our revolutionary Industrial Policy, TSiPASS, and EODB are the envy of every state. It has resulted in the fastest technological growth, housing more than1500 new large and small tech companies, with IT exports at 2.20 lakh crore.
- The globally unprecedented financial assistance under the Dalit Bandhu scheme is rewriting the destiny of the scheduled castes.
- Communal harmony and pride in our culture has brought an Identity we never had before.
- The stable Law and Order ecosystem has brought a sense of security to each citizen.

Today, as we begin our tenth year, life has come full circle.
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We are ready for a thousand more revolutions.

The new 125 feet Ambedkar statue which highlights Hyderabad's skyline is the largest in the country.

The B R Ambedkar Telangana Secretariate is Hyderabad's new seat of governance, an inspiration to all.

Issued by special commissioner, I&PR Department, Government of Telangana

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NUN RAPE CONTROVERSY

Franco Mulakkal resigns as bishop

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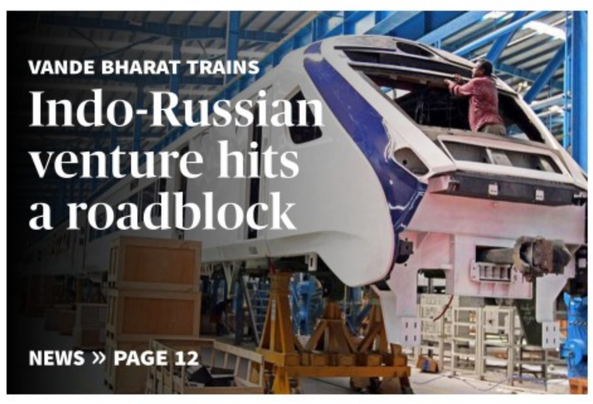

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India, Nepal sign a series of agreements

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Is there a clear north-south political divide?

Differences abound between the two regions

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Sedition law should be retained: panel

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BMTC to run mini-buses as metro feeder services

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is in the process of procuring 120 mini-buses to cater as metro feeder services and serve the last-mile connectivity in the city, said Sathyavathi G., Managing Director of BMTC.

Participating in #THTalksBengaluru, a live chat with *The Hindu*, on Thursday, she also invited companies to upgrade bus shelters under CSR. Acknowledging the lack of safety in the Majestic bus stand, she said a collaborative effort with the police is needed in ensuring the bus hub is a safe place for passengers.

She said the BMTC is in the process of training its employees in safe driving and soft skills.

DETAILS ON
» PAGE 2

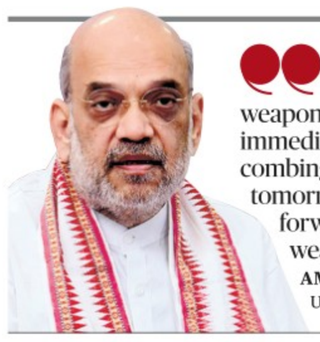
Judicial panel to probe Manipur violence: Shah

The commission will be headed by a retired High Court Chief Justice, says Minister; CBI will also begin investigation; he warns Kuki militant groups of stern action if 2008 agreement is violated

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that a judicial commission would be set up to conduct a probe into the violence in Manipur. The commission, headed by a retired High Court Chief Justice, would find the "causes" of violence and "fix responsibility", he said.

Addressing a press conference in Imphal on the fourth day of his trip to Manipur, the Home Minister termed the ongoing tension in the State as "ethnic violence". Mr. Shah said that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) would also conduct its own probe. Of all the cases registered so far, the CBI would select five and register a general case of conspiracy. "The special CBI team will probe the cases without any bias," he said.



> I want to appeal to those who have the weapons to surrender them immediately. Police will start combing operation from tomorrow; they should come forward and surrender the weapons to the police
>
> **AMIT SHAH**
> Union Home Minister

More than 2,000 first information reports (FIR) have been registered since the violence broke out on May 3.

With many security agencies now at work in Manipur and to bring them on a common ground, an inter-agency unified command would be set up, Mr. Shah said. It will be headed by retired Central Police Reserve Force Director Kuldiep Singh, who was appointed security adviser by the Manipur government soon after the violence began.

Warning to militants

The Minister warned Kuki militant groups of stern action if the terms of agreement of the Suspension of Operations (SoO) were violated. The SoO was formalised in 2008 with two Kuki umbrella bodies – the United Peoples' Front and the Kuki National Organisation – which represent 24 insurgent groups. They had 2,200 armed cadres whose weapons were to be surrendered at designated camps as per the pact. However, it is being alleged that the Kuki groups used those weapons against the Meitei community when the clashes began.

"I want to send a strong message to SoO groups that any kind of violation of SoO pact will be taken sternly, terms of agreement will be strictly monitored," Mr. Shah said.

CONTINUED ON
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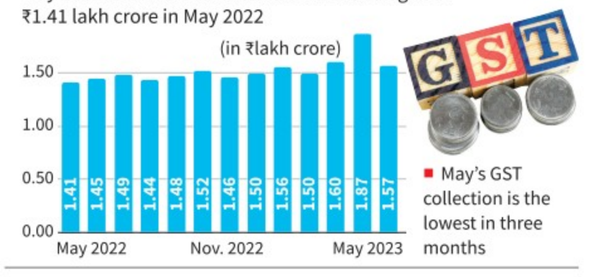
RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGE 13

GST collections cross ₹1.5 lakh cr. for fifth time, up 11.5% in May

Revenue check

India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues grew 11.5% in May 2023 to more than ₹1.57 lakh crore as against ₹1.41 lakh crore in May 2022



Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Gross Goods & Services Tax (GST) collections grew 11.5% in May – the slowest uptick in six months – to cross ₹1.57 lakh crore, with revenues from domestic transactions rising 11% and imports yielding 12% more taxes than a year earlier.

Sequentially, May's revenues were the lowest in three months, and 16% below the record ₹1.87 lakh crore collected in April. This was the 14th successive month that GST revenues exceeded ₹1.4 lakh crore and the fifth occasion that they surpassed the ₹1.5-lakh crore mark.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said GST revenue growth was likely to hover in the 10%-11% range in the coming months, with revenues seen between ₹1.55 lakh crore and ₹1.65 lakh crore.

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NEARBY

State to hand over land to Foxconn by July 1

BENGALURU
Minister M.B. Patil has said Foxconn plans to start manufacturing iPhone units by April 2024 at its proposed Devanahalli plant as the State government will be handing over the required land by July 1. » Page 8

Pre-monsoon rain wreaks havoc on crops

BENGALURU
Agricultural crops on 9,581.62 hectares of land and horticultural crops on 12,060.86 hectares were lost due to rain between March and May. » Page 5

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

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BANANA BRANDWORKS

Kuttappa optimistic of his wards getting three to four Olympic quota places at the Asian Games

Keeping Paris 2024 in mind, the head coach says some boxers will switch to Olympic weight classes at Hangzhou; mentions the presence of a psychologist and nutritionist have helped the pugilists

Talent and training: Kuttappa, seen with Bhoria, Hussamuddin, and Nishant who claimed bronze medals at the Worlds, slugs it out during practice. INSTAGRAM/VISHUKUTTAPA & FILE PHOTO

BOXING

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Encouraged by the Indian male boxers' best-ever showing of three bronze medals in the recent World boxing championships in Tashkent, head coach C.A. Kuttappa is optimistic that his boys will earn three to four Olympic quota places at the Hangzhou Asian Games in September.

Kuttappa feels the newly-introduced selection policy based on an assessment and evaluation process helped the coaches pick the best side for the Tashkent event and will again enable them to select the most deserving boxers for Hangzhou.

The finalists in each of the seven weight categories (51kg, 57kg, 63.5kg, 71kg, 80kg, 92 kg, and +92kg) at the Asian Games will qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Getting tough

"Technically and tactically we are number one, but we were not tough. But now we are giving tough fights. We are beating boxers from top countries like Kazakhstan and Cuba. Now the system is much better. After seeing our boxers' performance at the World championships, I think we will have three to four boxers who will qualify for the Olympics from the Asian Games," said Kuttappa.

Elaborating on the assessment system for the selection of boxers, which was prescribed by high-performance director Bernard Dunne and backed by foreign coach Dmitry Dmitruk, Kuttappa said, "You have to get out of your comfort zone. If assessment is happening, it is not only (about how someone is doing) technically and tactically during sparring, but also (it's about) strength and conditioning, weight management, and health-management. We are taking them forward.

"Every day it is like a competition. From the time training starts till the end, it is a competition. You should do well and improve every day. You cannot be doing the same thing every day...if weight training has been given to you, then you have to do it. It's not like you'll do something else. You have to give 101%.

"I have been working with Shiva (Thapa) since 2011, but for the first time I saw him getting out of his comfort zone. I have never seen him working so hard. He won 3-2 but lost 4-3 following the bout review. You have to go forward and show that I am the best. That thinking should come from within."

Apart from the assessment, Kuttappa said the presence of a psychologist through the World championships and a nutritionist (during the preparatory camp abroad) helped.

"We got to know that we don't need to speak to all the boxers in the same way. The psychologist (Adrita Banerjee) told us how to speak to each one of them. Someone like Deepak (Bhoria) does not need anything to be told, while you have to tell Nishant (Dev) to get something done.

"The nutritionist's role was good for weight management of the boxers as we mainly get beef and pork overseas and boys don't eat well. Good that dal and other things were prepared for us in the team hotel."

About the performance of the three medalists – Bhoria (51kg), Mohammad Hussamuddin (57 kg), and Nishant (71kg) – in Olympic weight classes, Kuttappa said, "Deepak had the capability to win the gold, but he lost the semifinal bout despite fighting so well.

"Unfortunately, Hussamuddin, one of the most hardworking boxers, injured his knee in the quarterfinals. Nishant did well to beat the Cuban and reach the semifinals."

Bhoria was determined to make an impact on his return to international competition after recovering from a shoulder injury. "The way I trained made me confident," said Bhoria.

Hussamuddin upbeat

Having secured bronze medals in the Commonwealth Games, Asian championships and World championships in a span of 10 months, Hussamuddin feels he is at the peak of his career.

"My game, including my footwork, feinting, and tactics, has improved a lot. My perseverance has paid off. My daughter (Haniya Firdous) has brought me good luck as I have performed well after her birth," said Hussamuddin, while hoping to recover in time to be ready for the Asian Games selection process.

Having overcome a tough phase in his career, Nishant boxed without pressure this time. "I was very cool and relaxed as I came to the ring smiling and boxed well in every bout," said Nishant.

Now, Kuttappa has shifted his focus to the Asian Games trials and assessment process, which is expected to pose some challenges for the coaches in the coming weeks.

"Keeping Paris 2024 in mind, some boxers will switch to Olympic weight classes for the Asian Games. It is going to be interesting," said Kuttappa.

Sevilla and its eternal romance with the Europa League

Fighting their way to the top: When Jose Luis Mendilibar — being thrown in the air by his team after the title triumph — took over as head coach of Sevilla, winning trophies was the last thing on his mind. But the team's supporters will forever be indebted to him and the players for being able to celebrate in such a fashion, as will skipper Jesus Navas, who was there when Sevilla won the first of its record seven titles in 2006. GETTY IMAGES, AFP, AP

Aneesh Dey

Sometimes, a perfect script lays in anticipation, waiting to be narrated to the world. One which has all the usual elements that would enrapture its audience. The highs, the lows, the struggle and eventually, the triumph. Some stories never get old, no matter how many times they are repeated.

The romance between Sevilla and the Europa League isn't a recent occurrence. Before Thursday's final against Roma, it had already won the title six times, with its first coming in 2006. But the record-extending seventh title will go down as a special win in the annals of Europa League history because of the fight the team showed.

Leading up to the 2022-23 Europa League title clash, a record was meant to be broken one way or the other. In one corner was Sevilla, which had never lost in the final. On the other, was Roma, managed by Jose Mourinho, who had never lost a European final in his illustrious managerial career. It was the perfect buildup.

It was a long duel, but in the end, Sevilla landed the knockout blow.

With Roma's Paulo Dybala scoring in the first half and Gianluca Mancini putting the ball inside his own net in the second, the scores were level at 1-1 after 120 minutes of football. The match went to penalties.

In the shootout, Roma succumbed to the pressure first. The night turned from bad to worse for Mancini, who saw his spot-kick saved by Yassine Bounou's outstretched leg. With Rakitic scoring the next penalty, the pressure was on Roger Ibanez to keep his team alive. Unfortunately for him, the post stood as a hindrance.

That there's a certain aura associated between Sevilla and the Europa League, was proven by how the Andalusians won the title. All eyes were on Gonzalo Montiel as he lined up to take the deciding penalty – the same guy who immortalised Lionel Messi's Argentina by scoring the winning spot-kick against France in the Qatar World Cup final.

A lifeline

Montiel hit the post, and it seemed like his moment was gone, but he was given a lifeline as Roma keeper Rui Patricio had come off his line. His second attempt was met by a roar from the fans donning white in the stands. Sevilla was champion again, beating Roma 4-1 on penalties.

When Jose Luis Mendilibar took over the reins at Sevilla from Jorge Sampaoli in March, the club was 14th in the LaLiga standings, just two points above 18th-placed Valencia.

Following a third-place finish in its Champions League group, that led to Sevilla being demoted to its most successful competition, trophies weren't on Mendilibar's list of priorities – damage limitation and survival in Spain's top flight were. At that point, only a pollyannaish would pin hopes on Sevilla winning a title in the season. But this very reason makes its title run all the more special.

In its first six title wins (between 2006 to 2020), it had momentum on its side throughout the entire season. Apart from 2016, the other five times it finished among the top five in the league. This season, with survival in LaLiga a matter of concern, winning a major European title is a phenomenal feat.

In context

To put things into context, Sevilla is 11th in the league table, with one more match left to play. If not for this Europa win, Mendilibar's men would not be in any European competition next season. But now, they will again battle with Europe's best in the Champions League next season.

Sevilla's road to the final wasn't elementary by any means. After a Round of 32-win against PSV, it set up a clash with Turkish club Fenerbahce. A 2-0 win at home proved crucial, as it lost 1-0 in its away fixture. That set up a quarterfinal tie against 2017 champion Manchester United.

Half-time into the first-leg against United, and everyone was ready to bid Sevilla goodbye. The rampant Red Devils, aided by a Marcel Sabitzer brace, led 2-0 at the break. But it is just something about this competition that makes Sevilla strive till the final whistle. Two late goals in the second-half of the first-leg and then a blistering 3-0 win at home led to a 5-2 aggregate win and a semifinal date with Juventus.

Going the distance

The semifinal clash took Mendilibar's men the distance. Youssef En-Nesyri scored first at Juventus' home, and Sevilla would have come away with a 1-0 win if not for Federico Gatti's equaliser. The second-leg was laden with drama as well. Dusan Vlahovic scored first for an away lead, but Suso was quick to equalise six minutes later. In extra-time, Erik Lamela sent the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium into frenzy with a winner in the 95th minute.

A football match has so many layers. While focusing on the main story, it is easy to forget the many footnotes that are no less special. Thursday's final was no different.

It was beautiful when Jesus Navas celebrated his seventh Europa title at the age of 37, having been with Sevilla when it first won in 2006. It was inspiring when Dybala braved injury to start for his team and score. It was heartwarming when Jose Mourinho gifted his runner-up medal to a young fan. And, when Sevilla gave a 'Guard of Honour' to the Roma players as they went up to collect their medals, it symbolised the very essence of why football is known as the 'beautiful game.'

THE GOLD OF RURA

WELFARE SCHEEMS FOR ALL

DALIT BANDHU - THE TORCH BEARER SCHEME

The revolutionary cash transfer scheme which is largest in the country and the world, the Telangana Dalit Bandhu, was introduced for the self-reliance of Dalit households and has made unprecedented impact on the social fabric of society. Till date, Rs. 3832.30 crores have been transferred to 38,323 beneficiary accounts directly. For FY 2023-24 an allocation of Rs. 17,700 crores has been made to benefit 1,77,000 SC families. A one-time capital assistance of Rs.10 lakhs per SC family as 100% grant is given to beneficiaries.

RYTHU BANDHU - KISAN BANDHU

A true farmer empowerment programme provides capital investment of Rs. 10,000 per acre, per year. 64.01 lakh farmers received Rs. 65,157 crores in ten crop seasons till date, to support farm investment such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, mechanisation and so on. This scheme is an inspiration for many states and has been recognised and applauded by UNO.

RYTHU BIMA - KISAN BIMA

An insurance scheme to protect the farmer family in case of death of the farmer aged between 18 and 59. A compensation of Rs. 5 lakhs is sent to the designated nominee account within ten days.

KALYANA LAKSHMI - SHAADI MUBARAK

BPL families with the heavy expenditure of marriage of their daughters, got relief for the first time under this heartfelt scheme. Eligible brides receive a one-time assistance of Rs. 1,00,116 for their marriage. So far 12.70 lakh girls were extended an amount of Rs. 11.109 crore.

AASARA PENSIONS

This pension scheme is meant to protect the most vulnerable sections of society, in particular, the old aged and infirm, widows, incapacitated weavers, HIV patients, etc., who have lost the means to earn their livelihood. Over 43.85 lakh people benefit monthly from the scheme, being awarded Rs. 2,016 to 3,016, depending on eligibility. In 2022-23 an amount of 10,502 crores was disbursed and for 2023-24, Rs. 11,774.90 crores has been allocated.

THE KCR KIT

An inspiring scheme designed for pregnant woman with assistance of Rs.12,000 in four phases as wage compensation. So far 13.91 lakh woman have benefitted from the kit, which has 14 utlility items. The impact of this scheme is so large, that ANC checkup has increased to 99%, and first time registrations have increased from 17% to 82%. Additionally, Rs. 1000 is sanctioned for every girl child.

HARITA HARAM

The world's largest effort to increase green cover upto 33% of the state. 273 crore saplings have been planted so far. 12.67 lakh acres forest is restored. 179 Urban Forest Parks have been restored. 19,472 Palle Pakrutte Vanams and 2,725 Bruhath Vanams have been created in the rural areas. One lakh km length avenue plantation has been developed. Biodiversity, wildlife, climate, public health have been dramatically impacted, with 7.7 percent increased forest cover.

24 HOUR FREE POWER FOR AGRICULTURE

Telangana has created a new record in supplying free quality power to the agriculture sector 24x7. Rs 36,891 crores has been given as subsidy since 2014-15. Rs 38,070 crores was invested for strengthening of the transmission & distribution system (TD). The Telangana per capita consumption is 2166 units, against national average of 1255 units.

100 % PADDY PROCUREMENT

Every grain of paddy produced by farmers is procured by the Telangana government via 7142 procurement kendras, which is one of the first of its kind in the country. This policy has brought about security in the life of farmers, never experienced before.

MISSION BHAGIRATHA

A phenomenal project to ensure potable drinking water reaches each household via pipelines. All 23,999 rural habitations and 142 urban local bodies in the state are covered. All the 1.06 crores households of Telangana are provided with household tap connections and potable water, daily.

MISSION KAKATIYA

The globally awarded programme has revived about 47,000 water tanks and lakes of all villages and towns in Telangana. These revived and replenished water bodies have brought back livelihoods.This gigantic networked tank and lake system across the state keeps the water supply to rural Telangana on 365 days of the year.

IRRIGATION

The government is determined to provide irrigation to 1 crore 25 lakh acres. The glorious completion of Kaleshwaram, the largest lift irrigation project in the world, in 3.5 years, is the most cherished dream of the people, come true. Many other irrigation projects have been grounded in different districts, and with the construction of Palamuru-Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Project and the Sita Rama project, 85 lakh acres of cultivable land has been added. The government has also taken up construction of 1200 check dams involving an expenditure of Rs 3,825 crore, out of which 650 check dams have been completed.

TELANGANA - THE COMPREHENSIVE, BALANCED AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT STATE

BMTC to procure 120 electric mini-buses

'They will run as metro feeder service,, and will also operate on narrow roads and cover interior places in city limits as well as on the outskirts'

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is in the process of procuring 120 mini-buses to cater as metro feeder services, and serve the last mile connectivity in the city, said Sathyavathi G., Managing Director of BMTC.

Participating in #THTalksBengaluru, a live chat with *The Hindu* on Thursday, she said these buses will be six to seven metres long and will be electric. "We are in the process of procuring 120 mini-buses which will be electric vehicles and run as metro feeder service. They will operate on narrow roads and cover interior places in city limits as well as on the outskirts. There is a lot of demand for mini-buses," Ms. Sathyavathi added.

Sathyavathi G., Managing Director, BMTC. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Now, there are MIDI buses operating in the city routes as well as metro feeder buses which have huge demand among the commuters. With two buses catching fire in a span of merely 10 days in February 2022, the BMTC had suspended the operation of 186 MIDI buses in its fleet. A MIDI bus, which is 9.2 metres long instead of the standard 12 metres, has a seating capacity of around 30.

Electric buses

Ms. Sathyavathi also spoke about inducting more electric buses. "We have not purchased electric buses but run them on a gross cost contract (GCC) basis; the entire maintenance of the buses is done by the manufacturer and only operations are done by BMTC. We are going to add another 920 buses soon to the BMTC fleet," she said.

Currently, the BMTC, under the Union government's Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) Fame II project has procured 390 electric buses.

The BMTC MD also said that the corporation will induct air conditioned airport bus services, including around 200 air conditioned electric buses to the airport fleet.

Route rationalisation

The BMTC is yet to take up revision of the route network in the city. Commuters pointed out that BMTC routes are decades old and have been demanding a review and revision of the route network to meet today's travel needs.

The BMTC MD endorsed revision of routes and said, "Route rationalisation plays a very important role to wipe out overlapping routes and connect various parts of the city. We now have a good traffic analysis system so that we can update the routes."

Lack of night service

Finding a city bus to travel at night is a harrowing experience for people who work late hours or those who arrive in the city after long-distance travel. Many people had asked about the lack of night services in the city. Responding to them, the BMTC MD said, "During pre-Covid times, night services were there. However, after Covid, the situation changed as most companies gave work from home. There was less demand for night services. Now things are changing and people are going to work in offices and night shifts are also increasing. We will surely increase the night services."

In Bengaluru, a total of 2,615 buses are operated in night shifts. The BMTC has a fleet size of 6,767 buses out of which around 5,563 buses are operated daily.

Watch the chat at: https://tinyurl.com/BMTCMD

'Quality bus shelters need of the hour; women safety is top priority'

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

"Going forward, more corporate companies should come up to set up good infrastructure bus shelters in the city," said Sathyavathi G., Managing Director, BMTC.

While answering readers' questions about the bad state of bus shelters in the city during the #THTalksBengaluru, she said there is a need to set up better lighting and safety features at the shelters. She said that the maintenance of bus shelters is a prerogative of urban local bodies and that they are supposed to provide all the necessary infrastructure.

"As a citizen first, I strongly feel that it is pitch dark in most bus shelters. There are no facilities available if there is rain or wind. We have taken this up very strongly and had many discussions with the BBMP about the absence of lights. They told us that new lights and even CCTV cameras installed as security measures have been stolen by people."

She added, "We need to tap some companies who can put up new bus stops through CSR initiatives like ELICITA did. The smart bus stop has security systems, vending machines and even sanitary napkin vending machine for women. In a heterogenous environment like our city, this system might work. It is 'Namma BMTC'. I hope many companies will come forward to set up bus stops."

CCTV cameras

The MD also emphasised on the safety of women passengers while commuting in BMTC buses. "Under Nirbhaya scheme, we have installed two CCTV cameras in 4,632 buses. We have also installed panic buttons which will immediately alert our Sarathi team and our control room. This is an ongoing process. We already have these in place in the new buses and we have to retrofit them in the old ones," she said.

She also said that in the Namma BMTC app, which is currently being beta tested, there is an SOS button which would alert the control room when pressed.

Responding to some queries about why the voice announcement systems in many buses were not operational, Ms. Sathyavathi said, "We will revisit that system and ensure that it works in all buses. It is helpful, especially in today's time when everyone is engrossed in their phones and would like to know which the next stop is."

Anti-social elements

Answering multiple questions about the various grievances at Kempegowda bus stand in Majestic, Ms. Sathyavathi promised that she will inspect the bus station and take action against the illegal activities and address various grievances there.

'No tolerance for misbehaviour by crew, traffic indiscipline'

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

The BMTC is in the process of training its employees in safe driving and soft skills and recently finished the training of 200 to 300 crew members. While a few readers had raised questions about the infamous bad behaviour and rash driving of the crew, Sathyavathi G., MD, BMTC, said that the corporation wants to ensure that the crew behaves well with the commuters.

"When there are more than 29,000 employees, it is quite challenging to manage these things. However, it does not mean that we tolerate any kind of misbehaviour or nonsense from our crew to the passengers. We have also reprimanded our crew several times. Customer is king and we do not want them to have an unpleasant experience with BMTC," she said.

When speaking about thousands of traffic violation cases lodged by Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) against BMTC drivers, Ms. Sathyavathi said that most cases have now been closed after the payment of fines and that the corporation had no tolerance when it comes to traffic indiscipline. "As of today, we have some 6,800 cases pending, which amounts to around ₹68 lakh. We also recover the fine amount from the crew concerned and ensure that they follow lane discipline and all other traffic rules."

BMTC is said to be taking several steps to create a healthy environment for its staff in the backdrop of several allegations of harassment. THE HINDU

Well-being of employees

Ms. Sathyavathi said that the BMTC was taking several steps to create a healthy environment for its staff in the backdrop of several allegations of harassment at many levels. "Many times, harassment would happen at the depot levels about leaves and duty cycles. We realised the need to be transparent and started an online leave management system as well as duty rota system to solve the problems about route allotment. We also have a system in place to rightly utilise the spare crew," she said.

Along with providing a counsellor, 30 staff members were trained about the importance of positive affirmations as a pilot project at NIMHANS, she said. She also added that BMTC wanted to take up a wellbeing programme to ensure that the staff members do not take any extreme step. "We are in the process of improving employer-employee relationship," she said.

Tertiary-level super-speciality hospitals in 5 divisions soon: Sharan Prakash Patil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil has said tertiary-level super-speciality hospitals will be started in all five divisions of the State.

Speaking to media during his visit to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) on Thursday, he said, "To provide quality treatment affordable to the public is our government's priority. Already, we have tertiary level super speciality hospital in Bengaluru with Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). We will build these hospitals in cities like Mysuru, Hubballi, Kalaburagi and Ballari in other divisions from our department."

However, due to the freebies announced by the state government and the financial liability, the Minister expressed scepticism in opening new government medical colleges in all the remaining eight districts in the next five years.

"Last time our government was in power, we decided to build a medical college in each district. Currently, there are 22 government medical colleges in the state. We don't know how many new colleges we can build now. Therefore, we needed to discuss establishing new government medical colleges with the Chief Minister." he said.

SNIPPETS

Free bus travel for women

As the Congress-led State government is getting set to introduce free travel for women in ordinary buses, many commuters asked the question regarding the implementation of the scheme in #THtalksBengaluru live chat with the BMTC MD. Sathyavathi G., MD of BMTC, said that she leaves this question to be answered by the government. "I am only the implementer. Whatever directions will be given by the State government, we will implement. People just have to wait and watch," she said.

Congress had promised in its manifesto that a scheme called Shakti - free travel for women in ordinary public transport buses across Karnataka will be implemented after the party comes to power. The Transport Minister said that the scheme will be implemented after the Cabinet meeting on Friday.

Bus priority lane

In 2019, with much fanfare, the 'priority bus lane' was opened on a stretch of 17 km between Silk Board and K.R. Puram at a cost of ₹14.3 crore. It was eventually dismantled due to metro construction work. However, Sathyavathi G., MD of BMTC said that the corporation has written to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to give them space to implement bus priority lanes in various parts of the city. "As part of the improvement of high density corridors, the BBMP will very soon call the meeting to implement bus priority lanes as it is very much required in the city, especially in these corridors," she added.

NCMC cards for BMTC

After Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) started issuing the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC), passengers are demanding the BMTC to also accept the NCMC cards. Sathyavathi G, MD of BMTC, said that they are in the process of implementing the cards soon in the BMTC. "We are working to integrate the NCMC cards and it is under the process to be implemented. It may take some time.," she said. It is said that a majority of the metro passengers have already been using Namma Metro smart cards and they are likely to shift to the NCMC only after the BMTC also starts accepting it.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, NIRMALA Shivaraj, R/a No.15, Church Road, New Thippasandra, HAL 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560075 have changed my name to Nirmala Thammanna Muninanjappa vide affidavit dt: 01.06.2023 sworn before Notary Smt.A.Manjula, B'luru

I, NARAYANA, S/o Nanjappa, R/at No.F-10, 2nd Floor, SMR Residence, 36/D, 1st Main, Malleshpalya, New Thippasandra, Bengaluru-560075, have changed my name from Narayana to Narayana Nanjappa vide affidavit dated 01-06-2023 before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bengaluru.

I, MYTHRI Rukmini Padmanabha, D/o Padmanabha, R/at No.82/3, 1st Main, 1st Cross, 1st Block, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru-560096 have changed my name from Mythri Rukmini Padmanabha to Chandrikaa Rukmini Padmanabha vide affidavit dated 01-06-2023 before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bengaluru.

I, HEMANTHA Kumara Gieehalli Shankarappa, S/o. Shankarappa, aged 36yrs, Residing at No. 102, Kanchanayakanahalli, Jigani Circle, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Rural-562106, have changed my name to Hemanth Kumar Gieehalli Shankarappa, vide affidavit dated: 01.06.2023 before notary Uday Kumar.K., Bengaluru.

I Satyanarayan S/o Shivaraj Mailar, residing at VBHC Palmhaven 2 C1-1202, Doddabele Village, Kengeri , Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560060, have changed my name to Satyanarayan Mailar for all purposes in future

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Puff the magic dragon

E-cigarettes are often pushed as a safer alternative to smoking, by vape manufacturing brands and smokers, but they can be more addictive and deliver more nicotine to those who use them, and are detrimental for the developing brain, say scientists

Aroon Deep

EXPLAINER

A man exhales smoke from a vape at the Scarborough Sci-Fi weekend in England. GETTY IMAGES

On World No Tobacco Day, when countries are pressed into performing, the Union Ministry of Health has directed OTT platforms to run anti-tobacco health spots and warnings, notifying the amended rules under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2004. However, e-cigarettes, or vaporisers, or vapes that contain nicotine, a tobacco extract, do not fall under the rule.

In India, the Union Government banned the import, manufacture, and sale of vapes in 2019, prompted by both health and safety concerns (with vapes exploding). Despite this, many made-in-China disposable single-use devices and refillable ones are brought into the country through the black market, routed through a third country. They are openly sold in city stores, and the government has issued additional advisories, with the most recent one in May, to warn vape sellers and users of the consequences of flouting the ban.

A study, 'E-cigarettes: A continuing public health challenge in India despite comprehensive bans', published this year in *Preventive Medicine Reports*, found that "Those with higher levels of education are among those most likely to vape." Of the 840 tertiary educated young adults who were surveyed, 8% were found to be dual users of e-cigarettes and tobacco, but 31% were curious about using them and 23% said they would try them the following year.

Vape advocates consist of users and e-cigarette manufacturers. The first set, often bolstered by the second, talk about "tobacco harm reduction", saying they are transitioning to a "smoke-free" future.

Monika Arora, director of the Public Health Foundation of India's (PHFI) Health Promotion Division, said that a complete prohibition was the appropriate course of action for India. "With countries that have regulated e-cigarettes, so much time is spent discussing which flavours to allow or prohibit in the market, whereas India's approach of complete prohibition has saved the time of policymakers, and protected the current young generation from this deadly exposure, which would have made them a nicotine dependent generation." The PHFI played a key role in the policymaking process leading up to the e-cigarette prohibition.

Vaping harms

Opponents of vaping – especially regulators – are watchful of two main problems with vapes: one, that while the carcinogenic risk associated with combustible cigarettes doesn't immediately appear to be a pressing concern, the long-term risks are unknowable, as it takes time to assess safety through controlled studies, and the fact that nicotine is a very addictive substance. Two, these fears are bolstered by the increased concentration of nicotine in typical vapes, and the social ease with which vaping can be done indoors. (Vapes generally don't leave a lasting odour.)

"Vaping patterns differ from cigarette smoking," Gideon St. Helen, an assistant professor at the University of California, San Francisco's Department of Medicine, concluded in a 2016 study that focused on how e-cigarette users spaced out their intake ('Nicotine Delivery and Vaping Behavior During ad Libitum E-cigarette Access'). St. Helen found that the "interpuff interval" among 13 vape users was just about two minutes. "Differences in delivery patterns and peak levels of nicotine achieved could influence the addictiveness of e-cigarettes compared to conventional cigarettes," he wrote in his observations.

Also, since vaping is less off-putting to those who might be discouraged by the harsh experience of smoking a combustible cigarette, it is easier to form a habit around nicotine consumption that may not have otherwise been there. "Minimising harshness and adaptive to user experience, [vape brand] Juul's design facilitates initiation to a high nicotine, and ultimately, highly addictive vaping product," said the study titled 'Nicotine delivery and cigarette equivalents from vaping a Juulpod' by the Stanford Prevention Research Center, referring to the popular American vape brand.

> The parts of a developing brain responsible for attention, learning, memory, are affected by nicotine (in youth)
>
> **MONIKA ARORA**
> Director, Public Health Foundation of India's (PHFI) Health Promotion Division

Youth use

Policymakers may specifically view the use of vapes by young people cautiously. "Though the prevalence of youth e-cigarette use in India remains unknown, paediatricians are often brought to provide care to youth who vape," said a paper 'E-cigarettes and Vaping: A Global Risk for Adolescents' published in *Indian Pediatrics* in 2021. **"Use of nicotine during adolescence is associated with altered brain development and long-term impairments in memory, attention capacity and executive functioning," Swati Y. Bhave and Nicholas Chadi wrote.**

"Consuming large amounts of nicotine through vaping can lead to nicotine toxicity, which presents with headaches, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, heart palpitations, hand tremors, difficulty concentrating, and in some cases, seizures and cardiac arrhythmia. Nicotine is also a long-term risk factor for poor cardiovascular health.""The parts of a developing brain, those responsible for attention, learning, memory – those are affected by nicotine," says Arora.

Smoking cessation

The highest profile conflict between regulators and e-cigarette manufacturers has been that between the United States and Juul. After initially getting into trouble over flashy marketing that was criticised as appealing to young people, the firm shifted away from splashy colourful hoardings to more sober messaging, with video testimonials from adult smokers who had switched to e-cigarettes.

However, cigarettes are not the only nicotine delivery methods that are legal in India. Patches and nicotine gums are prescribed for smokers looking to quit, but find it difficult to go cold turkey. Unlike vapes, though, these have a delayed response in the brain, as their dosage is limited to the content of a cigarette, between 1 and 4 milligrams.

"The nicotine dependence levels measured with the Fagerström test for nicotine dependence were shown to be over two times higher among e-cigarette users compared to traditional tobacco smokers," Arora said. "Also, among dual users [using traditional cigarettes as well as e-cigarettes], nicotine dependence levels were higher" than if they only smoked traditional cigarettes, she added.

THE GIST

The real risks of vaping

E-cigarettes don't seem to pose the carcinogenic risks that combustible cigarettes have been known for decades to cause, but long-term safety risks haven't been clearly established yet.

The nicotine in vapes is a derivative of tobacco, and experts warn of increased levels of addiction, nicotine content, and youth use.

While they have been prohibited in India since 2019, and recent advisories warn of consequences for sellers, they are still available, smuggled in on the black market and sold openly in cities.

E-cigarettes have been touted as a harm-reduction technique like nicotine replacement therapy medication, but policymakers in India have held firm on the ban as a way to stop India's youth from vapes that are both health and safety hazards.

BIG SHOT

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in Bengaluru organised an awareness drive on sustainable menstruation, advocating the menstrual cup, to commemorate World Menstruation Day on May 28. SUDHAKARA JAIN

WHAT IS IT?

Virtual autism

Virtual autism is a phrase formulated in 2018 by Marius Teodor Zamfir, a Romanian psychologist. He found that children, 0-3 years, who stared at screens for over 4 hours a day, had "sensory-motor and socio-affective deprivation". This activated "behaviours and elements similar to those found in children diagnosed with ASD [autism spectrum disorder]". Three areas were studied: social, language, and cognition.

The analysed group consisted of 110 children, and has piqued the interest of psychologists, teachers, and occupational therapists, who are encountering a host of behavioural changes in children now joining school. Autism is a pervasive development disorder, meaning it affects all areas of early chilhood development, including speech, sociability, play, and skill development.

Aarti Rajaratnam, a Salem-based child psychologist, says it's not about focusing on how to keep children off screens and demonising screens, but on what is natural for infants, babies, and children. "The nervous system is not ready for screens," she says, adding that there is no substitute for human interaction. "A parent or sibling blowing bubbles and a child reaching out to touch them is not the same the a simulated video game on a tablet."

Children at this age learn a variety of skills as they discover their bodies, simple objects, and the voices of family members. "By using screens as a substitute for self-soothing or as a distraction, we are destroying five levels of learning," says Rajaratnam. These include interoception (an awareness of body cues), sensory learning that is not restricted to the visual, muscle memory to enable a lower level skill to progress into a higher level skill, emotional learning, and other forms of learning (including school work, regulation, and problem solving).

For a child who has been spending long hours in front of screens and is showing signs of uneven development, there are a combination of ways of reversing the prognosis. Zamfir talks about a range, from play therapy and psychomotor stimulation therapy to language stimulation and cognition behaviour therapies.

This reset needs to be structured by professionals (child psychologists and occupational therapists), feels Rajaratnam, but not restricted to the therapist's office. "It is about changing the home environment to be more stimulating — letting babies be idle and not having to engage them all the time. Remember, like when parents would let a child pick up a lady's finger, pry it open, and stick it on the wall," she says. The point is to allow for a natural discovery of the world around.

— Sunalini Mathew

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AGRICULTURE

The total cultivable area has increased to 2.20 crore acres in 2022-23, from 1.31 crore acres in 2014. Grain production was at 68 lakh MT in 2014-15, and has increased to a record level of 3 crore MT during 2022-23. The government has procured 671.22 lakh MT of paddy and paid 1.21 lakh crores to the farmers. Today, Telangana is competing with traditionally agricultural states such as Punjab.

A BOOST TO RURAL ECONOMY

SHEEP REARING DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

3.94 lakh beneficiaries have been given 82.74 lakh sheep at 75% government subsidy for which an amount of Rs 5001.53 crore has been allocated in phase - 1. The per capita availability of sheep meat has increased from 12.95 kg per annum (2014-15) to 26.64 kg. About 3.38 lakh people will benefit in phase -2 with an outlay of Rs 6,125 crores.

FISHERIES

Four lakh fishermen get free fish seed with 100% subsidy. Telangana state has spent 348.93 crores in the last nine years, 414 crore fish seed and 28.34 crore shrimp seed for rearing seafood in reservoirs, lakes and ponds. The fishermen per capita has doubled from 48,000, in 2014.

RURAL ARTISANS

The rural artisan gets a one time grant of Rs. 1 lakh per family, including weavers, barbers, blacksmiths, bamboo weavers.

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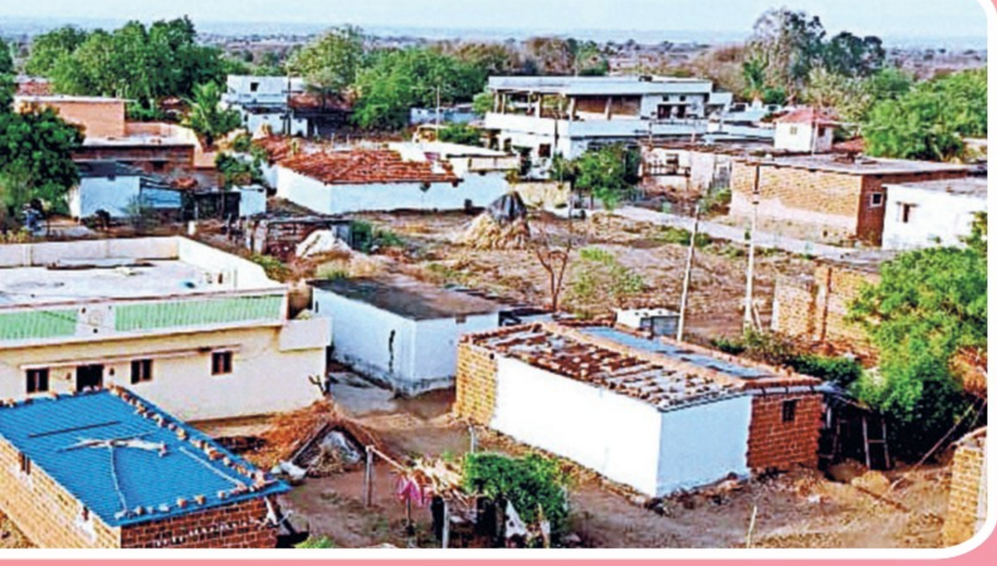

PALLE PRAGATI

Telangana has seen unbelievable development, unheard of in India, with Palle Pragathi. Every Gram Panchayat now has a dump yard, tractors, trolleys for waste collection and water tankers for providing water for plantations, nurseries for saplings, and Vaikunta Damams (crematoriums). 56 GPs, 16 Mandal's & 7 Zila Parishad's of Telangana state were awarded a total 79 National Panchayat Awards as best performing Panchayat Raj institutions from 2015 to 2022.

DIGITIZATION OF LAND RECORDS

The entire state has been digitally mapped and the Dharani portal holds digital records of all land ownership. 61.43 lakh khatas covering over 1.48 crore acres of agricultural land have been Aadhaar seeded, cleared and Pattadar Passbooks issued. Over 78.16 lakh acres pertaining to government land/forest land/public assets have been verified and catalogued. This has resolved land disputes and encouraged transparency.

TELANGANA - FROM AGRICULTURE TO AGRI TECH

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‘Floods and the resultant mess reveal that Bengaluru is not all gloss’

Former Chief Minister S.M. Krishna says that the flooding in 2022 was an opportunity to clear all encroachments and clean up the system, but the local administration did not pursue it

INTERVIEW

S.M. Krishna

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

S.M. Krishna, the flamboyant former Chief Minister of Karnataka credited with sowing the seeds of the tech boom, recalls the initial years when Bengaluru was evolving from a ‘pensioners’ paradise’ into the ‘Silicon Valley of India’.

In an interview with *The Hindu*, the 91-year-old talks about those initial years of tech growth that involved a lot of challenges as getting everyone concerned to work together was a tough proposition, especially when no one, at that point, could foresee that Karnataka would once emerge as the tech flagbearer for the entire county and shine in the global tech arena.

In an exclusive conversation, he also spoke about his passion for reading *The Hindu*, a ‘Madras newspaper’ his father brought daily to his village home at Somanahalli, how he was glued to its sports pages with elaborate coverage of tennis, and how he became a big fan of tennis stars such as Frank Sedgman, Roy Emerson, Dick Savitt (Richard Savitt) and others, way back in early and mid-1940s.

Excerpts from the interview:

Y2K (the millennium bug) and SMK happened to Karnataka concurrently in 1999. What role did the two play in unleashing the growth of IT in the State?

It so happened that when I became the CM in 1999, there was vigorous activity in the IT and BT sector. Fortunately, we were right there to catch the benefit of the beginning of the tech revolution that was taking place. We went all out to explore the opportunity, and we did not look back. Wipro’s Azim Premji and Infosys’ Narayana Murthy, and other leaders, came and worked in cohesion with the government. Bengaluru slowly started getting some recognition, although until the early 2000s, the city faced stiff competition from Andhra Pradesh. Thanks to Y2K, Bengaluru started getting global recognition in early 2000 itself.

Being the CM, how tough was it for you to convince MNCs to invest in Karnataka and set up shop here, during those initial years?

I had a big passion for IT because I had many friends working in IT in the U.S those days. A tech churn was happening, and some of them had relocated to Bengaluru. I sought help from my friends, and the existing industry, to make Bengaluru the Silicon hub of India. We formed the Chief Minister’s Consultative Committee. I still remember I telephoned Premji to invite him to be a part of it. He stayed on Sarjapur Road and asked me – *Do you know how badly this area is maintained? Have you ever visited this area? If you want me to come to Vidhana Soudha, it would take at least three hours*. Immediately, I asked the Chief Engineer of PWD to go to Sarjapur, and prepare a plan for the rejuvenation of the commuting system, roads and overall infrastructure there. Premji came to Vidhana Soudha, and became part of the CM’s Committee. I think, all these provided a tremendous boost for our claims, and these were the defining moments for Bengaluru and Karnataka. I am happy that it has, by and large, maintained that growth trajectory.

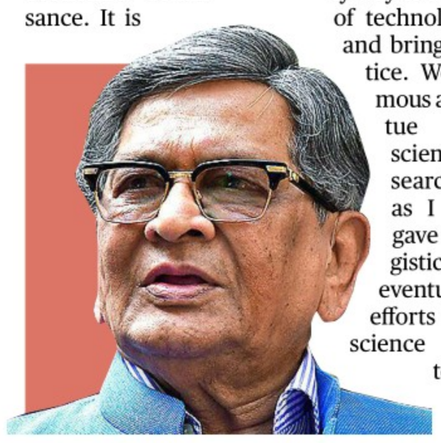
A file photo of S.M. Krishna with former chairman of Microsoft Bill Gates and Infosys co-founder N.R. Narayana Murthy in Bengaluru.

IT, software, hi-tech, etc, were not familiar words those days. What were the biggest challenges you faced to get the political administration, bureaucracy and industry to work together?

For our officers, it was a new idea, not yet exposed to, and not known. I got Balki Krishnamurthy from IISc. to work with us. Our officers went to IISc. to get themselves oriented. It was overall a co-operative effort, between the administrative missionary of Karnataka government, IISc., IIMB, and many other R&D institutions. Together, we were able to make big strides, laying a solid foundation to support waves of growth that came later.

What exactly made it happen for Bengaluru, especially when the city was under the heat of competition from Hyderabad and Chandrababu Naidu (the then CM of Andhra Pradesh) in those days?

Bengaluru always had the infrastructural advantage. We have the IISc., several research, defence and scientific establishments. We have Central PSUs such as ITI, HAL, BEL, and others. With IT and BT, we were adding another dimension of growth, inviting a huge new wave. And we have always been able to sustain our claim, even globally, despite all kinds of competition. The beginning happened post-liberalisation, thanks to Dr. Manmohan Singh, P.V. Narasinmha Rao, and others who ushered in an era of economic renaissance. It is true that some politicians were quickly drawn to these changes, and actively started inviting private players to come over and join in corporate endeavours. Let me tell you, I am extremely happy with the support my government then received from people and the entrepreneur community.



In retrospect, is there anything that you could do differently then, given a second chance?

Well, I don’t think that there could be any other way, other than to go the way I did. That was the only way to absorb the model of technological initiative and bring that into practice. We had an enormous advantage by virtue of having a scientific and research background, as I told you, that gave us required logistical support that eventually fuelled our efforts to fruition. Our science heritage mattered so much for us, while Hyderabad didn’t have that.

Today, Karnataka is the country’s tech flag-bearer and Bengaluru has top-of-the-mind recall for the global tech industry. How do you view this dominance? Can we sustain this momentum?

Bengaluru today is the knowledge capital of the world, a quality resource pool with millions of young tech, engineering, science and math graduates. We wanted to take forward the intrinsic value that Bengaluru provided and quickly capitalise on its legacy. But in 2004, when I did not get a mandate again, I was sent to Maharashtra as governor, and that was the end of it. I would have expected the succeeding government to continue the good work that we had done. But unfortunately, that government was totally hostile to development, as a result of which, we suffered a serious setback between 2004 to 2008. I have no hesitation in saying that nobody bothered about developing the tech industry during this period, but were busy dealing with non-issues.

Did you anticipate an avalanche of growth hitting us some time soon then?

Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had made a remark at a function in Bengaluru. I quote him, “There was a time when statesmen, presidents, and prime ministers went to New Delhi, and visited other State capitals. But now, the role has reversed, and they all come to Bengaluru first, and then visit New Delhi and other places.‘‘ This was one of the biggest tributes that Bengaluru received.

When I was still the governor, Dr. Manmohan Singh, while participating in an Asiatic conference, said, I quote again, “The world started looking at India through the prism of Bangalore.‘‘ Today, whatever IT activities we see across the country is the outcome of the effort put in by Bengaluru. Well, to answer your question, I would have loved to visualise such a growth, but I wasn’t perhaps mentally ready. But when it started happening, I started believing that it could be. Our government’s proactive approach, incentives, tax holidays, ease of doing business and handholding, all helped in a big way for the industry to take shape and take off.

But wasn’t IT a big trade off. Many say the city lost its soul and basic character.

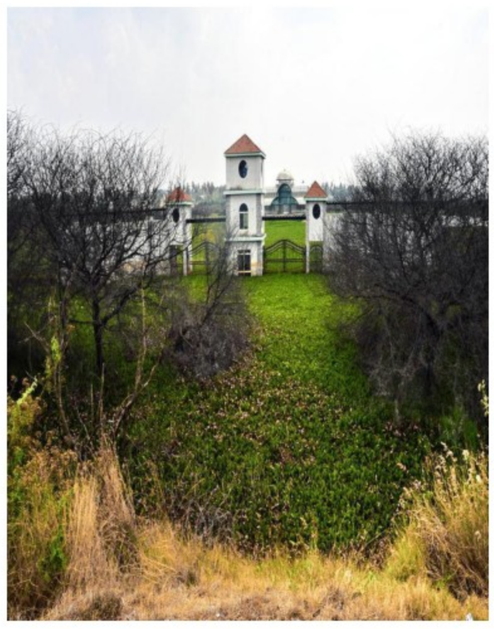
The city once known as pensioner’s paradise suddenly wakes up and becomes all active. True, the comparison is steep. Yet, the city still has certain remnants of old Bengaluru in pockets. Yes, you paid a price to find Bengaluru as the tech hub of the country. I think efforts were made to preserve what we had, the old, to develop the new areas, but we have not fully succeeded. Preserving the intrinsic worth of the city is critical, and succeeding government could have focused on these aspects on a priority basis. Many may have attempted, but none succeeded. Having said that, as an administrator, I knew the enormous benefits that would accrue to the State by utilising the scientific infrastructure we have.

The IT boom triggered an explosive growth in real estate. The city’s skylines and landscapes changed drastically, lakes started being encroached upon, disappearing over time and floods became a regular feature. What do you have to say on this?

Yes... We had unprecedented rains, and floods playing havoc and putting people in unfathomable difficulties in the last two, three years especially. These are lessons to be learnt, that all that we look at is not so glossy. Also, the administrative wing of the government should take note of it. We should build solid infrastructure that is ready to handle these periodic occurrences, such as torrential rains and flooding. Currently, one downpour puts our infrastructure under stress. In 2022, I was hoping that the floods and overflowing rajakaluves (storm-water drains) would provide an opportunity for us to clear all encroachments. But unfortunately, the administration did not go after the encroachers. We lost a wonderful opportunity in cleaning up the system. The administration made only a pretence, but stopped midway. The floods in 2022 could have been taken as a trigger to act.

Working at cross purposes

Years of drought had earlier dried up Amani Gopala Krishna Lake of Chickballapur, about 60 km from Bengaluru. Spread over around 600 acres of land, the district administration had occupied around 70 acres of the lake and was in the process of developing a botanical garden on the lines of Lalbagh in Bengaluru, and even built a Glass House. But in a bizarre twist, the district administration decided to fill water in this lake as part of the Hebbal-Nagawara Valley project. This has resulted in the semi-built garden turning into virtually a swamp.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 2, 1973

Panel indicts Mysore Minister

BANGALORE, June 1: The Mysore Minister for Agriculture, Mr. K.H. Patil, had used his position and power to influence the various authorities of the State Agro Industries Corporation to invest ₹15 lakhs in the share capital of the Gadag Cooperative Textile Mills Limited, according to the Mysore Legislature Committee on Public Undertakings.

In the view of the Committee, a textile mill was not an agro based industry for the purpose of financial assistance by the Corporation.

The textile mill referred to by the Committee is in Hukou, near Gadag, the home town of Mr. Patil.

The virtual indictment of the Minister is contained in the second of the Committee presented here, today, to the State Legislative Council. It was presented to the Speaker of the Assembly, earlier in the day, by the Chairman, Mr. B. Bhaskar Shetty, MLA, (Congress).

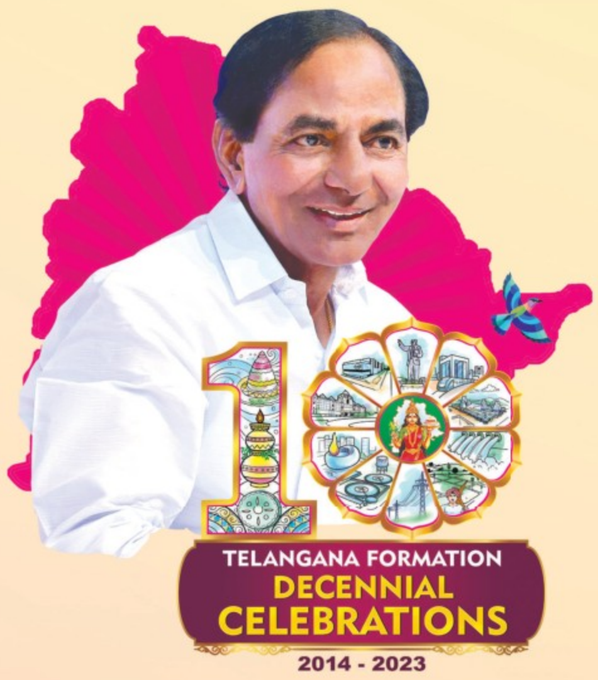
Integration Councils for Districts

BANGALORE, June 1: The Chief Minister of Mysore, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, today said that the intelligence agency was being strengthened and integration councils would be set up at district levels to promote integration as well as to avert communal disharmony.

Addressing a meeting of the State Integration Council here, Mr. Urs felt that integration councils should meet periodically instead of meeting only in the event of trouble. The police should be vigilant to identify areas prone to communal trouble well in advance, to take effective preventive measures.

Referring to the student unrest, Mr. Urs stressed the need for importing the right type of education from early years.

THE TECH HUB OF INDIA



UNMATCHED INDUSTRIAL POLICY

WORLDCLASS TECHONOLOGY HUB

- Today hundreds of MNCS, Indian technology companies, and startups call Hyderabad as their home. The Hub-and-Spoke development model has ensured that tier 2 cities join in the technology growth. The state today boasts of 53 IT SEZs, the largest in India, and hosts largest campuses outside headquarters of the brands such as Amazon, Facebook, Apple, Uber, Qualcomm, Bosch, Novartis and more. The work done in Emerging Technology sectors was recently applauded by a global audience at Davos, in AI, Blockchain, Drones, and Robotics.

A LEAP IN TECH EMPLOYMENT

- One out of every 3 technology professionals in India are employed in Telangana. About 20 lakh people are supported by the IT and ITES sector, with direct employment registering more than 8 lakh professionals.

QUANTUM LEAP IN EXPORTS

- Telangana's IT/ITes Exports touched Rs 2.20 lakh crore in 2023-24 fiscal. The quantum of exports saw a 220% growth since 2014. Telangana grew 9% higher than national average 17.20%.

T HUB

- The world's largest innovation hub to support 2000 businesses, in its 5,82,689 square feet campus. It brings together all startup ecosystem stakeholders to create sustainable businesses with a special focus on verticals like AI, EV/mobility, Healthtech, Gaming, and Spacetech.

WE HUB

- We Hub was set up with a vision to ensure women have access to all facilities required to become entrepreneurs and access global markets. More than 5,235 Startups and SME entrepreneurs have been helped, 2,194 startups, and SMEs incubated.

Telangana's Industrial Policy is based on a deep study of the best industrial nations and the domestic industry.
The Industrial Department grants all permissions in 21 days.

MOST ATTRACTIVE INVESTMENT HUB IN INDIA

- Just in the last two years, 4602 industrial units have been grounded. In 22-23, investments to the tune of 49,579.18 crore were recorded.

POWER SUPPLY THAT CATAPULTED INDUSTRY

- With 24 hours reliable power, per capita consumption jumped to 2126 KWH as against 1356 KWH in 2014. It has the highest installed solar capacity at 5865 MW.

AEROSPACE HUB

- The city is responsible for 1/5th of the national defence production. The city is home to Adibatla Aerospace SEZ, India's only multiproduct SEZ near an airport.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT

- The pro-industrial approach has generated more than 23 lakh jobs.

PHARMA CITY

- Hyderabad has been named 'The Bulk Drug Capital of the World' and the 'Vaccine Capital of the World'. The newly formed Pharma City is an industrial park of over 19,000 acres, is expected to attract 9.7 billion investment, and employ more than six lakh people. The city is home to 2/5th of domestic pharma production.

GENOME VALLEY

- Genome Valley is India's first and Asia's largest R&D Biotech cluster, and many global firms have shifted operations from China to Genome Valley, in addition to the large domestic base.

VACCINE CITY

- Hyderabad produces 1/3rd of global vaccine production. The WHO is setting up an mRNA vaccine hub in Hyderabad.

FINANCIAL DISTRICT

- The Financial District is a 75-acre zone marked out for SEZs, business parks for multinational conglomerates, technology campuses, and more. The area has catapulted Hyderabad to a city with some of the finest Grade A office space in the world.

TELANGANA – INDIA'S YOUNGEST STATE, INDIA'S BIGGEST ROLE MODEL

KIA achieves ACI's Level 4+ Transition and Green Airports Recognition

This accreditation is one of the highest accolades an airport can receive under the Airport Carbon Accreditation programme. BIAL bags Green Airports Recognition 2023 Platinum award

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has achieved a significant milestone by attaining Level 4+ Transition under the globally recognised Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) programme.

Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL), the airport operator, said that the prestigious accreditation, led by the Airports Council International (ACI), reflects BIAL's unwavering commitment to efficient carbon management and sustainability.

The Level 4+ Transition accreditation is one of the highest accolades an airport can receive under the Airport Carbon Accreditation programme, showcasing BIAL's aspiration to become net zero by 2030, and its continuous efforts in reducing carbon emissions. Furthermore, BIAL has received ACI's Green Airports Recognition 2023 Platinum award, in the 15-35 million passengers per annum category, as a recognition of its Plastics Circularity initiatives, such as single-use plastic elimination, and roads from plastic waste at the Airport.

The Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru.

"Attaining Level 4+ Transition under the prestigious Airport Carbon Accreditation programme is a testament to our unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability and our relentless efforts to reduce carbon emissions. This recognition reinforces our position as a front-runner for efficient carbon management and demonstrates our dedication to shaping a more sustainable future for the aviation industry," Hari Marar, MD & CEO, BIAL said.

Stefano Baronci, Director General of ACI Asia-Pacific, commented, "By achieving ACI ACA Level 4+, Transition, Kempegowda International Airport is firmly positioning itself as one of the leaders in efficient carbon management and this achievement truly demonstrates its firm commitment to invest in a more sustainable future. It's encouraging to see airports making tremendous efforts toward climate change mitigation in an era of unprecedented challenges for the industry."

IAF aircraft crashes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An Indian Air Force (IAF) trainer aircraft, Kiran, crashed on the outskirts of Chamarajanagar town on Thursday but the two pilots ejected safely.

The incident occurred at Bhogapura, about 10 km from Chamarajanagar town, and the pilots were identified by local police as Tejpal and Bhumika. The two sustained injuries and were airlifted to Bengaluru for treatment.

Citing Defence personnel, the police said they were out of danger. The cause of the crash is being investigated.

The mangled remains of the aircraft. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The IAF tweeted that the pilots were on a routine training sortie, and a Court of Inquiry had been ordered to ascertain the cause of the accident.

There were no civilian casualties, and the mangled remains of the aircraft were strewn on a barren portion of land.

Elephant tusk recovered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 25.5 kg of elephant tusk was being sold by two people in Girinagar on Thursday. The police arrested them and recovered the material.

The accused have been identified as Ravi Kumar, 45, from Kanakapura, and Somashekhar, 58, from Ramanagara. The duo told the police that they are labourers and found the dead elephant in a forest area of Kanakapura, removed the tusk a few months ago, and buried the animal. They were trying to sell the tusk through different sources and were caught red-handed while waiting for customers in Girinagar. However, the police suspect that they are part of a poacher gang and efforts are on to check their network.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.
E-GSU-ELE-2023-24-OT-2 dated 26.05.2023, E-GSU-ELE-2023-24-OT-3 dated 26.05.2023, E-GSU-ELE-2023-24-OT-4 dated 26.05.2023, E-GSU-ELE-2023-24-OT-5 dated 26.05.2023, E-GSU-ELE-2023-24-OT-6 dated 27.05.2023, E-GSU-ELE-2023-24-OT-7 dated 27.05.2023 & E-GSU-ELE-2023-24-OT-8 dated 27.05.2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	Improvement/ Modernization of Mandya and Channapatna stations under Amrit Bharat Scheme - Electrical Arrangements.	Rs. 3,00,32,480.80
2	Improvement/ Modernization of Ramnagaram and Kengeri stations under Amrit Bharat Scheme - Electrical Arrangements.	Rs. 3,50,78,084.20
3	Improvement/ Modernization of Malleswaram and Tumakuru stations under Amrit Bharat Scheme - Electrical Arrangements.	Rs. 3,49,90,754.88
4	Improvement/ Modernization of Hindupur and Dodballapur stations under Amrit Bharat Scheme - Electrical Arrangements.	Rs. 3,90,81,663.42
5	Improvement/ Modernisation of Krishnarajapuram and Whitefield stations under Amrit Bharat Scheme - Electrical Arrangements.	Rs. 3,05,91,562.52
6	Improvement/ Modernisation of Bangarapet, Malur & Kuppam stations under Amrit Bharat Scheme - Electrical Arrangements.	Rs. 5,08,36,973.40
7	Improvement/ Modernisation of Hosur & Dharmapuri stations under Amrit Bharat Scheme - Electrical Arrangements.	Rs. 3,52,33,694.60

Last date for submission of bids:
Up to 11:00 Hrs on 16-06-2023 for Sl.No. 1 to 4 and 19-06-2023 for Sl.No. 5 to 7
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / Gati Shakti Unit Bengaluru
PUB/128/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.
Tender Notice No. ECN-TRD-08-2023 Dated : 20.05.2023

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Request for Proposal for appointing Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) for providing Project Supervision Services for Various Construction Sites/Sections in the jurisdiction of Chief Electrical Engineer, Construction, Hubballi over SWR Zone	Rs. 2,92,80,480.24

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 05-07-2023

Tender Notice No. ECN-TRD-10-2023 Dated : 27.05.2023

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Electrification of Road - 5 and Road - 6 at Talakal yard and required modification in yard for connecting to Road – 4.	Rs. 1,11,13,981.30

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 19-06-2023
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/TRD/CN Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/131/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our **Mr. Devaraju.K. S/o Kodandaramaiah,** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mr. Kempegowda S/o late Chikkakempanna and Mr.B.Shankar S/o late P.S.Bylappa,** any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client/s shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of immovable Property bearing **Site No. 3,** in Block No. 05, PID No. 150200400200121269, Old Katha No. 89/B5/03, forming the part in converted Sy.No.110/21, Situated at: **Yarrappanahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** formed by the Karnataka Government Class 'D' Employees' House Building Co-operative Society Limited, Bangalore and measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 51.0 feet, in all Measuring **2040 Square Feet,** and bounded on:
East by : Site No. 02; West by : Site No. 04;
North by : Road; South by : Site No.28;
C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public are hereby notified that my client Mrs.Pallavi.S.W/o Mr. E.Mohan Reddy has lost original 1) Sale deed dated 25.10.2004, bearing document No. MBL-1-01157/04-05 2) Sale Agreement dated 06.08.2014, bearing document No. MBL-1-02149/14-15 and 3)Cancellation of Sale Agreement dated 25.06.2016, bearing document No. MBL-1-01324/16-17, all registered at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Mulabagilu, pertaining to Property No. 35-7-3/1, Dakhle No. 1750653, Old No. 8264/6985/36, Assessment No. 8264/6985/36, measuring East to West 12.192024 mtrs, or 40 feet, North to South 8.382017 mtrs or 27-1/2 feet, totally measuring 102.1933 sq mtrs. In this regard a Complaint dated 31.05.2023, has been filed with Karnataka State Police E Lost report No. 0582457/2023. If any person/s finds the said document kindly inform the advocate stated herein. If any person/s misuses the said document, the same is not binding on our client and they shall do so at their own risk.
C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are hereby informed that my clients intend to purchase the schedule property from **Sri N.Muralidhar S/o. Late Narayanappa** who represented that he is the absolute owner in possession of the schedule property with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same. Further stated that his prior title holder Sri K.Narayanaswmy had lost his original sale deed dated 11.12.2006, regd. as document no.59617/2006-07, Book-1, CD No.BLND375 Bangalore North Taluk. Public are notified that any person having any rights, titles, claims, or interests in the schedule property or any objection/s of any manner whatsoever to the above transaction are hereby called upon to notify the undersigned with supporting documents within **10 (ten) days** from the date of this public notice, failing which my clients shall complete the sale transaction with the above said owner. No claims shall be entertained thereafter.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **Site No.193,** Khata No.74, Assessment No.23, 25/1, 26/2C and 31/4 situated at **Heggadadevanapura village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** measuring east to west 30 ft. and north to south 40 ft. in total **1200 sq. ft.** and bounded as follows:
East by : Site No.194
West by : Site No.192
North by : Site No.234
South by : 30 ft. Road.
B. Gopalakrishna Adiga,
Advocate, No.616, 1st Floor 2nd Main Kommaghatta Road, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore-560060
Place: Bangalore **Date:** 01/06/2023

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:
E-Tender No.: SBC-GSU-ENGG-2023-ABSS-09 Dated : 25-05-2023

Name of work	Approx. Value
Bengaluru Division :- Construction of 12m wide FOB and civil engineering works for providing lifts and escalators at Bangarapet, Kuppam, Malur, Krishnarajapuram, Whitefield, Kengeri, Channapatna, Mandya, Ramanagaram, Dodaballapur, Hindupur, Malleswaram, Tumakuru, Hosur and Dharmapuri Railway Stations under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (Phase 1).	Rs. 99,72,11,597/-

Last date for submission of bids for: Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 23-06-2023

E-Tender No.: SBC-GSU-ENGG-2023-ABSS-10 Dated : 26-05-2023

Name of work	Approx. Value
Bengaluru Division :- Modernization of Tumakuru and Malleshwaram Railway Station under Amrit bharat Station Scheme (Phase I).	Rs. 19,36,38,233/-

Last date for submission of bids for: Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 19-06-2023
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti Bengaluru
PUB/134/AAD/PRB/SWR/2022-23
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE IV ADDL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE P & SC No. 25019 Of 2023
BETWEEN : 1. MR. MIHIR ANIL PANDYA S/o. Mr. Anil Drupadrao Pandya, Aged About 55 years, R/at No. 1019, Kristler Cove Austin, Texas 78759, U.S.A, Represented by his P.O.A Mrs. Srushti Anurag Desai
2. Mrs. Srushti Anurag Desai W/o. Anurag Dhaval Desai, No.32-A Citilights Liberty, Outer Ring Road, Next to Pratham Motors, Maruthi Showroom, Bellandur, Bangalore-560103. .....PETITIONERS
V/s
NILL .....RESPONDENTS
NOTICE
Whereas the Petitioners have instituted the above mentioned case being legal Heirs of Late Smt. SADHANA ANIL PANDYA and Late Shri ANIL DRUPADRAO PANDYA and are the rightful Successors to the Shares Mentioned in the Schedule Item wise and have approached this Hon'ble City Civil & Sessions Judge Court, Mayo Hall Bangalore for issuance of Succession Certificate. The said case is posted before this court on 20.06.2023, in the event of any objection or claim over the items mentioned in the schedule the same may be raised before the Hon'ble court as otherwise the case will be determined in its absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Hon'ble Court on 26-05-2023
SCHEDULE
ITEM No.1

Sl.No.	Description	Folio Nos	Certificate No.	No. of Shares
1.	Reliance Communications ventures Ltd	005886716	000843842	80
2.	Reliance Energy Ventures Ltd	005886716	00084384	80
3.	Reliance Power	205886716	004392785	20
4.	Reliance Capital	103997631	016499763	4
5.	Reliance Energy	103997631	015899763	6
6.	Reliance Industries Ltd.	056542345	55107323	10
7.	Reliance Industries Ltd.	065642345	55107324	30
8.	Reliance Industries Ltd.	084703222	59631418	40
9.	Reliance Industries Ltd.	056542345	62430097	80
10.	Reliance Industries Ltd.	056542345	66680575	160
11.	Reliance Infrastructure.	103997631	015899763	06
12.	Patel Engineering Limited			5200
13.	ICICI Bank Deposit No.107510008425 107513014475			Rs. 4,16,451.81/-

ITEM No.2
(Shares in Demat Account No.IN303028-72215480)

Sl.No.	Description	Number of Shares	Market Price
1.	National Highways Authority of India- SR TR XIX 5.75 BD31DC23 FVRS 10000	300	10,000.00

ITEM No.3
(Bank Account No. 107501509811 in the name of Sadhana Anil Pandya)

Sl.No.	Description	Total Amount
1.	Operative Accounts No.107501509811	3,82,336.65

Advocate for Petitioner,
Address: F. Mir Parveez Ahmed,
Suite 208, first floor, Regency Enclave #4, Magrath Road, Bangalore-560001
By Order of the Court, Deputy Registrar, Civil Court, Mayo Hall, Bangalore.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Public Works Division No.2, Nagpur
E-mail: div2nagpur.ee@mahapwd.com Telephone No.0712-2565048
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 04/2023-2024

Online E-tenders in 'B-1' Forms are invited by Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No. 2, "Bandhkam Sankul" Civil Lines, Nagpur for the following works from the registered contractor who satisfy the qualifying criteria. The tender documents should be downloaded from the Government Website https://mahatenders.gov.in The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders. Conditional tenders will not be accepted.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lakhs)
1	2	3
1	Annual maintenance and repairs of State Border Kelwad Saoner Mohpa Kohali Dorli Bazargaon Dabha Sonegaon road (SH-336) Tahasil Kalmeshwar Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.37.76 Lakh
2	Annual maintenance and repairs of Kalmeshwar Ghorad Mohpa Telgaon Nandagomukh to NH-69 to SH-349 Km.0/00 to 24/400 Tahasil Kalmeshwar Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.35.40 Lakh
3	Annual maintenance and repairs of SH-335 to Lohgad Mohapa Dhapewada Patansawangi Khapa Badegaon Sironji Sindewani to M,P.Border (SH-459) Km.57/00 to 72/700 Tahasil Saoner Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.38.35 Lakh
4	Annual maintenance and repairs of Kharangana Masod Kondhali Sawargaon Chicholi road SH- 324 Km.29/200 to 62/800 Tahasil Katol Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.34.69 Lakh
5	Annual maintenance and repairs of (SH-323) from Karanja Bharsingi Jalalkheda Mowad to District Border Km. 36/400 to 67/200 Tahasil Narkhed Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.44.86 Lakh
6	Annual maintenance and repairs of Kharangana Kondhali Katol Sawargaon Chicholi to State Border road (SH-324) Km.62/800 to 75/700 Tahasil Narkhed Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.40.42 Lakh
7	Annual maintenance and repairs of Bokhara Lonara Baillwada to Taluka Boundary (MDR-41) Km. 0/00 to 12/00 Tahasil and Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.35.40 Lakh
8	Annual maintenance and repairs of Daheli Pohi Rama Sonegaon Wathoda Km.0/00 to 27/500 MDR-48 Tahasil and Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.44.25 Lakh
9	Annual maintenance and repairs of Pipla (K.) Tishti (Bu.) Dadhera Tishti (Khu.) Nandikheda Jirola Kokarda Kanyadol Khumari road (MDR-101) Tahasil Kalmeshwar Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.42.78 Lakh
10	Annual maintenance and repairs of Pardi Khairy Susundri to SH-336 to Sonoli Wadhona Ubali to SH-349 (MDR-105) Tahasil Kalmeshwar Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.35.99 Lakh
11	Annual maintenance and repairs of Sahuli Selu SH-344 to Gumthala Lonara Upparwahi Ghogli to SH-293 to Ghorad Dhapewada to SH-344 road MDR-102 Tahasil Kalmeshwar Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.79.65 Lakh
12	Annual maintenance and repairs of SH-335 to Nandikheda Pilkapar (Khu.) Pilkapar (Bu.) Budhala to MDR-9 road MDR-106 Tahasil Kalmeshwar Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.38.94 Lakh
13	Annual maintenance and repairs of SH-47 to Sawali Jatamkhora Kelwad Khairy Dhalgaon road MDR-8 Tahasil Saoner Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.59.00 Lakh
14	Annual maintenance and repairs of Bhondetal Surewani Maharkund Khubala Umari Jambhalapani to MDR-9 Bawangaon Kocchi Badegaon Kharduka Tembhurdoh Raiwadi Chorkheri MDR-9 road connecting to Km. 0/00 to 56/00 MDR-93 Tahasil Saoner Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.44.25 Lakh
15	Annual maintenance and repairs of Bhondetal Surewani Maharkund Khubala Umari Jambhalapani to MDR-9 Bawangaon Kocchi Badegaon Kharduka Tembhurdoh Raiwadi Chorkheri MDR-9 road connecting to Km. 0/00 to 56/00 MDR-93 Tahasil Saoner Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.59.00 Lakh
16	Annual maintenance and repairs of From Taluka Boundary to Kothodi Manegaon Bhendala Waki Gosewadi Isapur NH-69 to Pipla Walni Ranala Rohana Pota Sillewada Chankapur Khaparkheda road Km.0/00 to 20/800 MDR-95 Tahasil Saoner Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.38.35 Lakh
17	Annual maintenance and repairs of From Taluka Boundary to Kothodi Manegaon Bhendala Waki Gosewadi Isapur NH-69 to Pipla Walani Ranala Rohana Pota Sillewada Chankapur Khaparkheda road Km.20/800 to 38/00 MDR-95 Tahasil Saoner Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.50.74 Lakh
18	Annual maintenance and repairs of Sawali from (MDR-8) Jalalkheda Narsala Bhojapur Pohna Mangsa to SH-336 Parsodi Khangaon Sherdi Khedi Kodegaon Tighai Gumgaon Wakodi Waki NH-69 Patansawangi road connecting to Km.0/00 to 20/000 MDR-96 Tahasil Saoner Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.47.20 Lakh
19	Annual maintenance and repairs From Mohgaon (Bha.) Jatamzari Gondimohgaon Zilpa Aajangaon road MDR-7 (Km.17/0 to 35/800) Tahasil Katol Distt. Nagpur	Rs.55.46 Lakh
20	Annual maintenance and repairs From Katol Pathar Bordoh Chankapur road MDR-67 Tahasil Katol Distt. Nagpur	Rs.38.35 Lakh
21	Annual maintenance and repairs From SH-353(J) to Thaturwada Bel Bhishnoor Tinkheda Kharsoli Narkhed Mohadi Dalvi to State Border road (MDR-2) Km.00/00 to 25/600 Tahasil Narkhed Distt. Nagpur	Rs.40.71 Lakh
22	Annual maintenance and repairs From MDR-2 to Bhishnoor Sawargaon Pipla Nandagomukh Umari Kelwad to SH-336 connecting road (MDR-4) Km.00/00 to 28/00 Tahasil Narkhed Distt. Nagpur	Rs.53.40 Lakh
23	Annual maintenance and repairs From District Border to Utara Thadipawani Kharbadi Jalalkheda to SH-293 connecting road (MDR-70) Km.00/00 to 21/900 Tahasil Narkhed Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.61.95 Lakh
24	Annual maintenance and repair & From the District Border to Ismailpur Wadvihira Mendhala Wadhona Ramthi Arambi Khala Loharisawanga to SH-323 connecting (MDR-72) Km.00/00 to 22/000 Tahasil Narkhed Distt. Nagpur.	Rs.64.98 Lakh
25	Annual Maintenance and Repairs of Narkhed Sardi Pithori Ambada Chorkhairy Pipla (Khu.) Shemda Aagra Khulkhairy to MDR-4 connecting road (MDR-74) Km.00/00 to 30/300 Tahasil Narkhed Dist. Nagpur.	Rs.73.75 Lakh

1	E- tender available	As per e-tender schedule uploaded on e-portal
2	Pre- Bid meeting	As per e-tender schedule uploaded on e-portal
3	E- tender Opening	Online timetable will be applicable & Final.

All information of e-tendering is available on the following website / Notice Board.
Terms & Conditions :-
1. **https://mahatenders.gov.in** 2. **https://mahapwd.com**
(If there is any changes in the notice, then the information will be communicated on the above website)
3. Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No.2, Nagpur Office Notice Board
4. For any correspondence contact. Above mention e-mail & Telephone No.
Notice:-
1) All eligible/interested Contractor are downloading and mandated to get enrolled on e-tendering portal https://mahatenders.gov.in and further need to empanelled online on sub portal https://mahatanders.gov.in in the appropriate bidder applicable to them.
2) Bidders are requested to contact on following telephone numbers for any doubts/information/difficulty regarding online enrollment or obtaining digital certificate. Help Desk Number - 0120-4200462, 0120-4001002.
3) Tender Document Fee and EMD. is to be paid via Online E-payment Gateway mode only. EMD. Exemption Certificate shall not be considered. The information of E-payment Gateway is available on E-tendering website **https://mahatenders.gov.in**
Sd/-
(Chandrashekar Giri)
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division No. 2, Nagpur
DGIPR/2023-2024/1115

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TELEMATICS
ELECTRONICS CITY, PHASE-I, HOSUR ROAD, BENGALURU-560100.
Advt.No.CDOT/HR/A-GradeRectt/001
Recruitment of Associates and Member Support(Finance) - Extension of date
It is hereby notified that the last date for receipt of applications for the post of Associate and Member Support (Finance) has been extended till **28 June 2023.** Kindly check our website for detailed Advertisement. Interested and eligible candidates may apply and submit their applications online www.cdot.in on or **before 28.06.2023, 5pm.**
Sd/-
Head-HR&P/Legal

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, CHENNAI
6th Floor, Additional Office Building, Shastri Bhavan, Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 006
BEFORE THE RECOVERY OFFICER
TRC No.1486/2022 (TRC 319/2018 DRT-I)
in
OA No.907/1996 (DRT - Bangalore)
In the matter of
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., Asset Reconstruction Division ...Certificate Holder
Now at :
M/s. Khamadhenu Leather Fashion (P) Ltd., Rep by the Official Liquidator, High Court of Karnataka ... Official Liquidator
-Vs-
M/s. Khamadhenu Leather Fashion (P) Ltd. and 3 others ...Certificate Debtors
NOTICE OF SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION
(See Sections 25 and 29 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 r/w Rule 53 of the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961)
WHEREAS in execution of **TRC No. 319/2018 (DRT-I, Chennai) dated 27.06.2017 issued in OA No. 907/1996 (DRT, Bangalore)** by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer of Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore and Demand Notice in TRC No. 319/2018 dated 29.04.2003 subsequently issued by the learned Recovery Officer of Debts Recovery Tribunal - Bangalore for the recovery of the **Rs.1,32,76,350.88** (Rupees One Crore Thirty Two Lakhs Seventy Six Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Paisa Eighty Eight Only) and further interest from the Certificate Debtors.
2. The said DRC transferred to this Hon'ble Debts Recovery Tribunal -II, Chennai on Jurisdictional grounds in pursuance of Ministry of Finance, Department of Finance Service Gazatte Notification No. S.O. 4717 (E) dated 04.10.2022. And whereas the said DRC has been renumbered as TRC No. 1486/2022 on the file of this Tribunal.
3. The undersigned has proposed to sell the undermentioned immovable property, standing in the name of Certificate Debtors which were mortgaged to the Certificate Holder Bank by them.
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property situated at Manikapandhidar Street, bearing Door No.344, in TS No. 87, Part Block No.11, Ward No.8, Gandhi Nagar, Vaniyambadi Town, N.A. Ambetkar District, Measuring North to South 13½ feet and East to West 80 feet and bounded on the West by: Conservancy lane, East by: Manikapandhidar Street, North by: Private Property and South by Private Property.
You are hereby informed that the **19.06.2023 (Monday) at 11.30 a.m.** has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof. You are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attaching to the said property or any portion thereof.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 29th day of May 2023.
Sd/- (S. SOFIN ROSE)
Recovery Officer
Copy To
1. **M/s. Khamadhenu Leather Fashion (P) Ltd.** Rep by the Official Liquidator, High Court of Karnataka, Corporate Bhawan, No.26-27, 12th Floor, Raheja Towers, M.G.Road, Bangalore
2. **Sri.M.R.Harish,** S/o.Late. M.A.Ramaswamy, No.554, 10th Cross, 14th Main, Padmnabhanagar, Bangalore - 560 070
3. **Sri.G.Anandan,** S/o.Late.M.Govindaraju, 344, Manika Panditar Street, New Town Vaniyambadi, Tamilnadu
4. **Smt.Saroja Harish,** W/o.Sri.M.R. Harish, No.554, 10th Cross, 14th Main, Padmnabhanagar, Bangalore - 560 070

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FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR THE HINDU Young World THE HINDU

Form no. INC-25 A
Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for conversion of Public Company into Private Company
Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, South East Region, Hyderabad
In the matter of Companies Act, 2013, Section 14 of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 41 of Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of M/s Bikaner House Limited having its registered office at No. 2, O' Shaughnessy Road, Langford Gardens, Bangalore-560025 ..... Applicant
Notice is hereby given to general public that the company intending to make an application to Central Government under section14 of the companies Act, 2013 read with aforesaid rules and is desirous to convert into Private Limited Company in terms of Special Resolution passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 1st April, 2023 to enable the company to give effect for such conversion.
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change/status of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his interest and grounds of opposition the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, South East Region, 3rd Floor, Corporate Bhavan, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Tattiannaram Village, Hayat Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District,Hyderabad-500068, Telangana, within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to applicant company at the registered office at the address mentioned below:
Bikaner House Limited
No. 2, O' Shaughnessy Road, Langford Gardens, Bangalore -560 025
For and on behalf of Applicant
RITU BOTHRA
Director
DIN: 00616954
No. 2, O' Shaughnessy Road,
Langford Gardens, Bangalore -560025
Date: 02.06.2023

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

Rain or shine, it is Yakshagana season all year round now

The beginning of monsoon is no longer the end of Yakshagana performances in the Karnataka's coastal districts. With an abundance of venues opening up over the last decade, Yakshagana theatre is thriving throughout the year

Artistes of the Kateel Sri Durgaparameshwari Prasadita Dashavatra Yakshagana Mandali performing at the Kateel Durgaparameshwari temple before commencing their tour for the 2022-23 season. H.S. MANJUNATH

Raviprasad Kamila

It is curtains down on the six-month-long daily performances by professional Yakshagana troupes in Karnataka. The artistes are now geared up for another innings, that is the monsoon or off-season presentations, which usually start in June.

The 'melas' – as they are called in Kannada – are the performing troupes of Yakshagana theatre, which present daily shows from December to May touring different places in the coastal districts (Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada) and Malnad region (Shivamogga and Chikkamagaluru districts) of Karnataka and Kasaragod district of Kerala.

The melas perform in the open air, erecting a stage or sometimes pitching a tent in spacious grounds or vacant plots. The shows are sponsored either by individuals in the form of a 'harake' (an offering made to the God for fulfilling a certain wish) or by a group of art lovers or organisations. All performing troupes are attached to a temple and are either named after the temple or the main deity.

A majority of the troupes wind up their performances on the Tulu 'Pattanaje Day' (called Hattanavadi in Kannada which usually falls on May 25), which signifies the end of the festival season in the region. Following this, people concentrate on farming activities as the monsoon begins.

What is a mela

A 'mela' is a team comprising artistes and their helpers, electricians and those who manage the sound system. The number of people in each Yakshagana troupe varies from a minimum of 20 persons to a maximum of 35. Each troupe presents anywhere between 180 to 200 shows a season.

Once the tour starts, the performers will have to stick to the troupe they are attached to till the end of the season. Once the season ends, the artistes have the choice to switch over to any troupe of their choice, before starting the next season's tour.

Yakshagana performances in the traditional region are popularly called as "aata" (play) in Kannada. The region has upwards of 40 'melas' which packed up the 2022-23 touring season on May 31.

While a majority of the troupes ended their performances on May 25, the Amrutheswari Mela of Kota in Udupi district was the last to perform on May 31.

Second innings

However, the beginning of rains is no longer the end of Yakshagana performances. Earlier, the lack of auditoria and halls posed a hindrance to Yakshagana performances during the monsoon. With an abundance of venues opening up for hosting the shows, particularly over the last decade, Yakshagana theatre is active throughout the year, including during the monsoons, though performances are not held on a daily basis with an exception of Mandarthi in Udupi district.

A Yakshagana prasanga being staged in Mangaluru.

A Yakshagana artiste at a programme in Mangaluru.

A file photo of Badagu Thittu Yakshagana.

A child artiste gets ready for the performance.

Shruthakeerthi Raj, a PhD holder in Botanical Science, who moonlights as a Yakshagana artiste with the century-old Kateel Durgaparameshwari Prasadita Dashavatara Yakshagana Mandali (popularly called Kateel Mela) told *The Hindu*, "Yakshagana is a vibrant theatre form which is now active throughout the year not only in Karnataka but in some other parts of India and abroad too." Mr. Raj, works as a visiting faculty, teaching Botany in private colleges and tutorials during daytime.

No more restrictions

The organisers pick up the most popular artistes from different troupes for these performances during the rainy season, usually held on Saturdays, Sundays or other holidays. The artistes are free from troupe restrictions to participate in the monsoon shows.

For example, a Yakshagana performance "Sampoorna Sri Devi Mahatme" is scheduled at Rajangana on the premises of the Udupi Sri Krishna Mutt/Temple on June 17, in which artistes drawn from various 'melas' will participate. Similarly, another show 'Mahakali Maghadendra - Srinivasa Kalyana' is scheduled at Katukukke in Kasaragod district, Kerala on June 24.

Breaking all-night tradition

Meanwhile, unable to meet the demand for 'harake' shows before the onset of monsoon, Mandarthi Sri Durgaparameshwari Dashavatara Yakshagana Mela, another Yakshagana troupe with a legacy of over a century, has been performing Yakshagana every day on the premises of the Mandarthi Durgaparameshwari temple since the past six years. The 'mela' broke the tradition of not performing in the monsoon in 2017 due to pressure from devotees, as otherwise they would have had to wait for many years to host the shows.

H. Dhananjaya Shetty, president of the managing committee of the Mandarthi Durgaprameshwari Temple, which manages the Mandarthi Mela, told *The Hindu* that the five troupes of the 'mela' ended their season's performances on May 28, 2023. The monsoon shows of the mela, which will be performed only on the temple premises, would commence from June 17.

Due to advance booking, 19,000 'harake' shows are waiting to be performed. It will take the troupe till the year 2044 to perform all of them. Similarly, the shows of Kateel Mela, which has six performing troupes, are also booked for more than a decade.

During the rainy season, some artistes also come together to form their own small troupes and present shows in different parts of the country as well as abroad, with Yakshagana lovers now spread across the globe. There are at least four such known troupes. They go to West Asian countries, Australia, the US, Germany and also Indian cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai and Baroda.

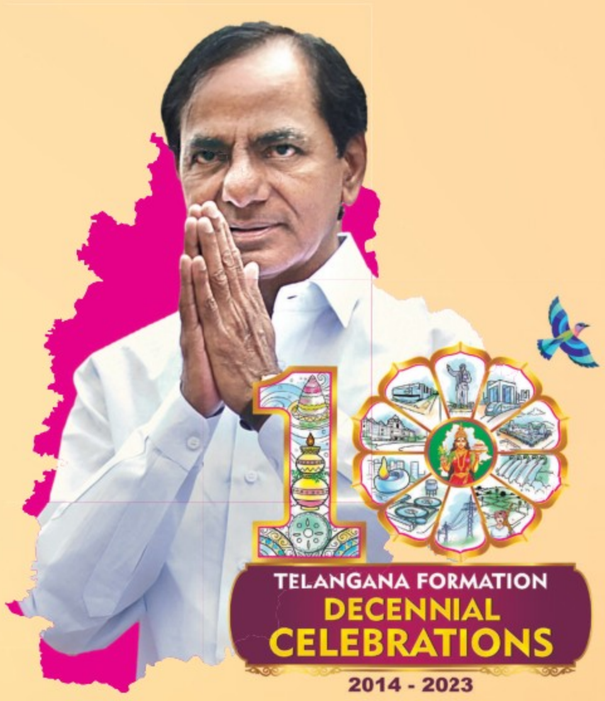
Short duration shows

The Kateel and Mandarthi melas have also switched over to short-duration formats from 2022-23 season. Though the managements of these melas attributed the decision to a government circular banning the use of loudspeakers in public places between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., there was also a dearth of audience for all-night shows. The duration of the performance has now come down from eight hours (all night) to five-and-half hours.

Mr. Raj and Diwakar Karantha, manager of the 18-year-old Hanumagiri mela (erstwhile Ramachandrapura mela) said that the 'kala miti' (short duration) shows have helped retain, and even increase, the audience footfall, especially drawing children and youngsters to Yakshagana. All-night shows are traditionally performed from 9 p.m. to 5.30 a.m. The 'kala miti' shows are held from 6 p.m. to midnight.

Keeping pace with the changing times, Dharmasthala Manjunatheswara Krupaposhitha Yakshagana Mandali – another professional Yakshagana touring troupe which is well over 100 years old – had switched over to 'kala miti' shows much earlier, from 2015-16 onwards.

The short duration shows have resulted in some college students, teachers, advocates and people in other professions becoming Yakshagana artistes by night and performing with touring troupes. It has also helped the melas meet the shortage of artistes. If each of the 40 touring melas present a minimum of 180 shows daily, Yakshagana theatre records at least 7,200 performances in six months. The rainy season shows are an addition to this number.



UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE IS THE STATE'S MOTTO

Telangana has been ranked as third best performing state as per Niti Aayog. The healthcare budget has increased by 76% over the last year.

HIGHEST GROWTH IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

- The government has decided to establish one medical college in each district, to take medical education to rural areas. A total of 32 medical and nursing colleges have been set up across the state, in all district headquarters, in a state which had only 5 government medical colleges in 2014. The state has 19 MBBS seats and 7 PG seats for one lakh population, the highest in the country.

URBAN PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

- Four super-specialty hospitals in four corners of Hyderabad, The Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences, are being constructed.

TIER 2 HEALTH INFRA

- A 2000 bedded state-of-the-art health city and super-specialty hospital is under constrution at Warangal.

TELANGANA DIAGNOSTICS

- A Hub & Spoke model of free diagnostics to cater to 33 districts benefits 25 lakh people and has conducted more than one crore tests. A total of 28,000 oxygen equipped beds have been set up across the state. 61 new dialysis centers and 515 dialysis machines have been added.

BASTI DAWAKHANAS

- 365 Basti Dawakhanas have been set up to give medical access to bastis.

KANTI VELUGU

- Bringing 'light to the eyes', the scheme is designed to prevent blindness and ensure good eyesight to people of Telangana by arranging major eye-screening camps, and providing spectacles free of cost. Kanti Velugu has crossed its target of 3.04 crore eye screening tests, and 60 lakh spectacles have been distributed in two phases.

EXPENDITURE FOR EDUCATION IS AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

- 1002 residential institutions have been set up with international standards for poor students, which has helped public education dramatically. The government spends Rs 1,25,000 on each eligible student, per year.
- English medium has been implemented in all government schools from the academic year 2022-2023.

MANA OORU-MANA BADI

- TS government has initiated Mana Ooru – Mana Badi and Mana Basti – Mana Badi programme for the comprehensive development and strengthening of infrastructure facilities in 26,065 schools in 3 phases, spread over a 3-year span, with a total budget outlay of Rs 7,289.54 crores.
- The first phase has started in 9123 schools, taken up with an allocation of Rs 3,498 crores. They make up 35% of total schools.

MINORITY GIRLS' EDUCATION

- Telangana comes first in minority girls' education in the country.
- Mid-day meals and lunches at hostels are supported with free high quality fine rice by the government.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Overseas scholarships worth Rs 20 lakh for each student of BCs, STs, SCs, EBC, Minorities and Brahmins have shown very good results.

issued by special commissioner, I&PR Department, Government of Telangana

TELANGANA - FASTEST GROWING INDUSTRIAL STATE

Pre-monsoon rain wreaks havoc on crops

Over 9,500 hectares of agricultural crops and 12,000 hectares of horticultural crops have been destroyed. This includes 3,750 hectares of jowar, 1,782 hectares of paddy, 920 hectares of safflower, 843 hectares of bajra, and 711 hectares of wheat crops

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

The unpredictable rain patterns in the State have heightened the misery of farmers as thousands of hectares of crops were washed away this year by pre-monsoon rains. According to government data, agricultural crops on 9,581.62 hectares of land and horticultural crops on 12,060.86 hectares were lost due to rain between March and May.

Bidar, which often sees periods of drought, has received excessive rainfall this year, thereby facing the worst crop loss. The district received a total of 200 mm rainfall between March and May, which is a 235% departure from normal, according to the database of Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC). As a result, a total of 5,577 hectares of agricultural crops and 1,292 hectares of horticultural crops were washed away in the district.

Around 7,257 hectares of horticultural crop loss has been witnessed in Kolar district. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

In Yadgir

Similarly, in Yadgir, where 1,115.73 hectares of agricultural crops were lost, 98 mm rainfall was recorded during pre-monsoon, which was a 62% departure from normal rainfall. These two districts were followed by Davanagere, Raichur and Chitradurga districts which were also majorly affected by agricultural crop loss.

Across the State, 3,750 hectares of jowar, 1,782 hectares of paddy, 920 hectares of safflower, 843.94 hectares of bajra and 711 hectares of wheat crops were destroyed during the pre-monsoon period. "This was the Rabi crop sowing season and the unexpected rains interfered with the farmers' plans. We do not usually see this kind of rainfall in North Karnataka region, let alone hailstorms. As the rainfall was well above the normal amounts this time, we had to see this scale of crop loss," said a senior official in the Department of Agriculture.

A recently retired senior official from the Agriculture Department spoke about the changing climatic conditions that are hampering crops in the State. "There is either drought or floods every alternate year. Both agricultural and horticultural crops are lost either to excess rain or deficit of rain, especially in the northern parts of the State. This year, the changing climactic conditions and the hailstorms were the main factors in the crop loss. However, work has been taken up by both departments and local administrations to provide tertiary compensation to farmers," said the official.

Often having smaller crop cycles than agricultural crops, horticulture farmers bear the brunt of seasonal calamities frequently. Around ₹201.6 crore worth of horticulture crops have been destroyed in the last few months, Horticulture Department officials said.

Seasonal favourite mango and Kolar, the district where it is grown the most, have figured on the top of the crop loss list. Around 7,257 hectares of horticultural crop loss was witnessed in Kolar.

Mangoes on a total of 6,750.5 hectares were lost recently rattling the already struggling mango farmers. This was followed by grapes (1,639.3 hectares), tomato (1,125.89 hectares), banana, papaya, onion, arecanut and pomegranate. The loss of these crops has led to a hike in the prices of fruits and vegetables in Bengaluru.

The Horticulture Department has estimated that according to the guidelines provided by NDRF and SDRF, ₹34.66 crore was needed to provide compensation to the farmers. "Mangoes in Kolar and Bidar have been hit badly, along with a few other crops due to the rain and thunderstorms this year. However, we cannot say that 100% crop loss occurred on all 12,000 hectares. Parts of it could be salvaged," said Rajender Kumar Kataria, Principal secretary, Horticulture Department until Thursday.

Crop loss

Major agricultural crop loss between March and May 2023

Crop	Crop loss (area in hectare)
Jowar	3,750.29
Paddy	1,782.98
Safflower	920.00
Bajra	843.94
Maize	803.05
Wheat	711.00

Districts majorly affected by agricultural crop loss between March and May 2023

District	Crop loss (area in hectare)
Bidar	5,577.00
Yadgir	1,115.73
Davangere	744.61
Raichur	716.00
Chitradurga	510.80

Major horticultural crop loss between March and May 2023

Crop	Crop loss (area in hectare)
Mango	6,750.50
Grapes	1,639.30
Tomato	1,125.89
Banana	651.76
Papaya	225.90

Districts majorly affected by horticultural crop loss between March and May 2023

District	Crop loss (area in hectare)
Kolar	7,257.80
Bagalkot	1,562.40
Bidar	1,292 .00
Chickballapur	398.78
Chitradurga	269.07

INBRIEF

Property tax: 5% rebate period extended

The BBMP has extended the 5% rebate period till June 30 for the convenience of property owners in tech city, said a release issued by the BBMP. The BBMP decided on extension on the directions of Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar. The Congress in May had demanded the civic body to extend the deadline as people were inconvenienced due to Assembly polls.

No power supply tomorrow

There will no power supply on Saturday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in areas serviced from 66/11 KV RBI MUSS due to carrying out periodical maintenance work. According to a release from BESCOM, HSR Layout division, the areas that will be affected are RBI layout, Kottanur, J.P. Nagar 5th Phase, Shreyas Colony, Gaurav Nagara, Nataraja Layout, Nrupathunga Nagar, Jambusavari Dinne, Chunchughatta, and surrounding areas.

Reading Constitution's preamble to be made must

The State government has intended to teach the preamble of the Constitution to school and college students. H.C. Mahadevappa, Minister for Social Welfare, held a meeting with officers of various departments on Thursday. He instructed the authorities to issue an order to make it mandatory to recite the preamble every day in all schools, colleges and universities of the State. In his tweet, he said, "Officials have been instructed to order compulsory reading and interpretation of the preamble of the Indian Constitution every day in State schools and colleges."

'With 63 teams at multiple levels, BBMP is set to tackle monsoon'

The civic body now has a greater understanding of waterways flowing across the city, particularly in Mahadevapura and K.R. Puram, says Chief Commissioner of BBMP

INTERVIEW

Tushar Giri Nath

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Ahead of monsoon, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has constituted 63 teams at multiple levels, besides setting up zonal-level integrated flood response centres. In an interview with *The Hindu*, Tushar Giri Nath, Chief Commissioner, BBMP, said equipped with a better understanding of waterways, remodelling of stormwater drains, anti-encroachment drive, and all-ready teams, the civic body is fully prepared for the monsoon.

Excerpts:

Compared to the previous year, what are the additional preparations done by BBMP?

The BBMP now has a greater understanding of waterways flowing across the city, particularly in Mahadevapura and K.R. Puram. A comprehensive survey of rajakaluves after the September 2022 floods not only helped identify stormwater drains (SWD) closed due to encroachments but also successfully helped in carrying out the demolition drive (which is ongoing). In many areas, the drains have been opened, remodelled for a smooth flow of rainwater.

In 28 Assembly constituencies, contractors worked relentlessly, while in some places works were halted due court cases.

All the drains are desilted. For the unlined drains, a few temporary solutions were implemented to streamline the waterlogging issue.

What are the reasons for delay in completion of stormwater drain works?

Rain Ready?

There is no delay in implementing stormwater drain works, apart from places where court cases are filed.

The contractors who commenced work soon after the previous monsoon continued work till April. During the monsoon, work cannot be executed, and materials dumped at the sites for the same are removed.

These materials block rainwater triggering inundation. Apart from a dedicated budget for SWD, ₹40 lakh per ward was allocated previous year, and ₹30 lakh this year, towards implementing measures at ward levels to curtail flooding.

How many teams are formed to tackle flood?

The BBMP has formed 63 dedicated teams at various levels for this monsoon. The teams were formed after elaborate deliberations with all the stakeholders. These teams are provided with the necessary resources and are designed in a decentralised manner. This time the response time of the BBMP has drastically reduced and the finer handling of pre-monsoon showers itself speaks for the preparedness. The civic body is carrying out detailed measures at underpasses to avoid any tragedies.

How do these teams work?

At all eight zones, integrated flood-response centres are set up. Zonal Commissioners, divisional chief engineers, and executive engineers during rains will be on rounds monitoring the situation in flood-prone areas. Assistant Executive Engineers and other staffers will be at fields, and when flood-response centres receive complaints, the team will swing into action.

The Forest Department staffers are cutting branches, and they are fully prepared to clear uprooted trees and fallen branches.

The Hindu Education Plus career counselling from June 3

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 21st edition of The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling will be held at 10 locations in nine cities across Karnataka from June 3, 2023.

The event will provide guidance to students on the UPSC exam, CET counselling and NEET counselling by Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) officials, and also career guidance on courses in Arts, Science, Commerce, Law, Fashion Designing, Journalism, Animation, Performing Arts, Management, Engineering, Medicine and many more.

The event will provide a platform to connect students and parents with experts and educational institutions. The event also helps students make the right decisions after getting the right counselling and guidance. Timing for registration is between 9.00 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. The event will be held between 9.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. For details, contact: 9845095781 / 9448160126 / 9448871815. Entry is free. All participating students will get career counselling book free.

THE HINDU EDUCATIONPLUS career counselling 2023

Event sponsors

The platinum sponsor is Presidency University, Bengaluru. Gold sponsors are Cambridge Institute of Technology, Bengaluru; Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Siddaganga Institute Of Technology, Tumakuru; and GITAM Deemed to be University, Bengaluru.

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The Hindu Education Plus career counselling - 2023

Place	Date	Venue	Address
Mangaluru	03/06/2023	Geetha S.M. Shetty Hall	Ramakrishna College, Bunts' Hostel Circle, Mangaluru
Jayanagar	03/06/2023	NMKRV Shashwathi Auditorium	22nd Cross, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bengaluru
Davangere	04/06/2023	GM Institute of Technology	Auditorium Hall, Post Box No.4, P.B. Road, Davangere
Bidar	04/06/2023	Sri Poojya Channabasava Pattadevaru Rang Mandir	Near district stadium, Bidar
Ananda Rao Circle	10/06/2023	Sri Jagadguru Renukacharya College (SJR College)	No: 9 Race Course Road, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru
Hubballi	10/06/2023	K.L.E Society's Biotechnology Auditorium	B.V.B. College of Engineering & Technology Campus, Vidyanagar, Hubballi
Ballari	10/06/2023	Basavarajeshwari Public School & College (BPSC)	Anantapur Road, Ballari
Mysuru	11/06/2023	Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering	P.B. No.206, Gokulam III Stage, Mysuru
Tumakuru	11/06/2023	Birla Auditorium	Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumakuru
Kalaburagi	18/06/2023	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Bhavan	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Bhavan, Sharana Basava University, Kalaburagi

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JUN. 02		
RISE	05:53	SET 18:43
RISE	17:04	SET 04:02
SATURDAY, JUN. 03		
RISE	05:53	SET 18:43
RISE	18:04	SET 04:49
SUNDAY, JUN. 04		
RISE	05:53	SET 18:43
RISE	19:08	SET 05:42

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	25
Mysuru	34	23
Bengaluru	31	21

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be mostly dry Day will be little warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of thunderstrom.

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THE HINDU
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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. IRENE SAMUEL RAJAH
Beloved wife of P. Samuel Rajah
Date of Death : 02.06.2018
"You 'll live in our Hearts forever"
Remembered by Loved ones

9th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

S.JAYA
Born: 01.03.1944 Died: 02.06-2014
It is Nine Years Since you left us, but you remain in our hearts forever
Fondly Remembered by
Husband, Daughters, Sons-in-Law, Grandchildren & Relatives
May your soul rest in peace and bestow happiness in our lives
A.Sivaramakrishnan
C4/44, Kendriya Vihar, Velappanchavadi, Chennai - 600 077.
Ph: 2627 4034 / 94449 75565

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Wheat purchased from farmers by the Centre so far this year

262 In lakh tonnes. The Centre procured wheat at the minimum support price (MSP) and paid about ₹47,000 crore to farmers in the ongoing Rabi Marketing Season 2023-24. PTI

India's power consumption grew marginally in May

1.04 In percentage. The consumption rose to 136.56 billion units in May, 2023 compared with the 135.15 BU in the year-ago period. The minimal increase was attributed to widespread rains. PTI

Milk producing companies pledge to boost milk production

22 companies. On World Milk Day, 8.7 lakh members from various milk producing companies committed to increasing India's share in global milk output through better animal management practices. PTI

Biden approves new financial military aid package for Ukraine

300 In $ million. The package includes additional munitions for drones and an array of other weapons. It also provides munitions to boost Ukraine's air defense capabilities. AP

Job openings in the U.S. rose unexpectedly in April 2023

10.1 In million. The sudden rise illustrated the resilience of the American labour market and complicated Federal Reserve efforts to fight inflation. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Who should own the world's lithium?

What has the Supreme Court said on the ownership of land? How big is India's electric vehicle market? How are the South American countries of Chile and Bolivia managing their lithium reserves? What lies in India's future with respect to the lithium industry?

EXPLAINER

Prakash Kashwan

The story so far:

The news of potentially significant reserves of lithium, an element needed to manufacture batteries used in electric cars and other renewable energy infrastructure, in Jammu and Kashmir has been welcomed universally. Commentators have called this a boost for national prosperity and security without dismissing concerns about the potential social and environmental impacts.

What is the status of India's lithium industry?

India's electric-vehicle (EV) market was valued at $383.5 million in 2021, and is expected to expand to $152.21 billion in 2030. India imported 450 million units of lithium batteries valued at $929.26 million (₹6,600 crore) in 2019-2020, which makes the development of the country's domestic lithium reserves a matter of high stakes. Scholars have argued that the ongoing global transition to low-carbon economies, the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence (AI), and 5G networks will greatly reshape global and regional geopolitics. The access to and control over rare minerals, such as lithium and cobalt, will play a crucial role in these epochal changes.

Who should own these minerals?

In July 2013, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India ruled that the owner of the land has rights to everything beneath, "down to the centre of the earth". Yet, large areas of land, including forests – which make up more than 22% of India's landmass – hills, mountains, and revenue wasteland are publicly owned.

The Supreme Court also recalled that the Union government could always ban private actors from mining sensitive minerals, as is already the case with uranium under the Atomic Energy Act 1962. In today's context, lithium is as important as, if not more than, uranium.

New gold: The lithium stones in the Reasi district of Jammu & Kashmir. PTI

How do other countries manage lithium reserves?

The stories of two South American countries, Chile and Bolivia – which have the largest known reserves of lithium – are particularly instructive.

In Chile, the government has designated lithium as a strategic resource and its development has been made the exclusive prerogative of the state. The state has licensed only two companies – SQM and Albemarle – to produce lithium in the country. In April 2023, Chile's president Gabriel Boric announced a new "National Lithium Strategy", which many in the corporate sector took to be a declaration of his intention to nationalise the industry. On the contrary, Mr. Boric has clarified that his government would honour existing contracts. As a supplement, the new strategy calls for public-private partnerships for future lithium projects, which will allow the state to regulate the environmental impact of lithium-mining, distribute the revenue from lithium production more fairly among local communities, and promote domestic research into lithium-based green technologies.

Bolivia's new constitution, developed under the leadership of former president Evo Morales and approved by a popular vote in February 2009, gave the state "the control and direction over the exploration, exploitation, industrialisation, transport, and commercialisation of natural resources." The Morales administration nationalised lithium and adopted a hard line against private and foreign participation. This is believed to be one of the factors for the country's failure to produce any lithium at a commercial scale nearly 20 years after the industry was nationalised. Bolivia's current president, Luis Arce, seeks to change that. However, instead of handing over lithium resources to the private sector, Mr. Arce wants to join hands with other Latin American countries to design a 'lithium policy' that would benefit all their economies.

Mexico's president Andrés Manuel López Obrador also nationalised lithium in February this year, declaring, "Oil and lithium belong to the nation, they belong to the people of Mexico."

In general, the countries in Latin and South America are thinking through ways and means to pursue a multi-pronged strategy. While the national governments of these countries exercise a significant degree of control, the nature of private sector participation varies between these countries. The actions of these governments are also a response to the mobilisation of Indigenous Peoples in the region who want to hold corporations as well as governments to account.

What next?

As India explores and develops its own lithium reserves, it is notable that the appropriate development of this sector will require a very high level of effectiveness on the part of the Indian state. Much of India's mineral wealth is mined from regions with very high levels of poverty, environmental degradation, and lax regulation. Effective and careful management of the sector should be paramount if India's rare minerals development is to meet its multiple goals – social wellbeing, environmental safety, and national energy security.

The writer is an associate professor of Environmental Studies at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, Waltham, USA

THE GIST

- Scholars have argued that the ongoing global transition to low-carbon economies, the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence (AI), and 5G networks will greatly reshape global and regional geopolitics.
- The stories of two South American countries, Chile and Bolivia — which have the largest known reserves of lithium — are particularly instructive.
- Much of India's mineral wealth is mined from regions with very high levels of poverty, environmental degradation, and lax regulation. Effective and careful management of the sector should be paramount if India's rare minerals development is to meet its multiple goals.

How has Dhaka reacted to the U.S. threat on visas?

Why has America adopted a new policy to restrict visas to Bangladeshis who undermine the election process at home? How has the Sheikh Hasina government reacted?

Kallol Bhattacherjee

The story so far:

On May 24, the U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced a "new visa policy" which threatens to restrict visas to Bangladeshis who undermine the democratic election process at home. The notification said the restriction would apply to current and former Bangladeshi officials, members of pro-government and opposition political parties, and members of law enforcement, the judiciary and security services. There were allegations of rigging in elections held in 2014 and 2018, which the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had denied. Bangladesh responded immediately to the U.S. threat, with the government saying it would take steps to prevent any interference in elections. The U.S. is the largest foreign direct investor in Bangladesh followed by Japan and China, according to top official sources in Dhaka.

What does the notification specify?

The new visa policy specifies that actions that undermine the democratic election process include "rigging, voter intimidation, the use of violence to prevent people from exercising their right to freedoms of association and peaceful assembly, and the use of measures designed to prevent political parties, voters, civil society, or the media from disseminating their views."

What is the status of relations between the U.S. and Bangladesh?

Bangladesh and the U.S. share a strong economic bond despite somewhat icy political relations because of legacy reasons. Washington under President Nixon was not in favour of East Pakistan seeking liberation from West Pakistan, followed by the birth of Bangladesh post-December 16, 1971. This particular issue became accentuated as the government of Sheikh Hasina has modelled itself as the defender of the spirit of 1971, and equates its opponents with those who opposed the creation of Bangladesh. The Hasina government has maintained a distinction between economic and political relations between the two sides. The U.S. is the third largest trading partner of Bangladesh and is the largest recipient of the garments produced in Bangladesh. With China taking a keen interest in Bangladesh, the U.S. feels the need to look beyond trade ties. The importance of the Indo-Pacific strategy also makes Bangladesh politically indispensable for the U.S.

What are some of the other hurdles?

Prime Minister Hasina has followed a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and extremism since being sworn to power in 2009. She has uprooted insurgents of northeast India who had maintained a base in Bangladesh for decades. That apart, Islamist radicals were also consistently targeted by security agencies especially the RAB (Rapid Action Battalion). Her actions, however, have drawn criticism from various quarters including the U.S., which has accused Bangladesh of violating human rights and for enforcing the disappearance of around 600 individuals. In December 2021, serving and former top officials of the RAB were sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department.

Additionally, Bangladesh maintains a neutral policy on the Ukraine crisis, with Ms. Hasina repeatedly arguing against interference in the affairs of sovereign countries. On the ground, multiple projects indicate a strong cooperation between Dhaka and Moscow. Russia is building the first nuclear power project in Rooppur which is expected to be operational later this year. Ms. Hasina has also shown her plan to maintain energy independence and announced in the Qatar Energy Forum earlier this month that her government will purchase energy at a "comfortable" price.

What lies ahead?

Ms. Hasina has emerged as an important regional player because of her strong connection with India. Interestingly, India has not responded to the visa restrictions despite the fact that Bangladesh is the largest trade and security partner of India in South Asia. Moreover, Bangladesh has shown some indication to soften its attitude to the U.S. with its April declaration of the Indo-Pacific Outlook (IPO). However, there is no sign that Ms. Hasina would consider a stronger strategic alignment with the U.S. by allowing a naval base for them or by joining the western bloc on Ukraine.

THE GIST

- On May 24, the U.S. announced a "new visa policy" that will help the U.S. to impose visa restrictions on individuals in Bangladesh and their immediate family members who may obstruct the free and fair process of election in Bangladesh.
- Even though the U.S. is the third largest trading partner of Bangladesh, the Hasina government had maintained a clear distinction between the economic and political relations between the two sides.
- Additionally, Bangladesh maintains a neutral policy on the Ukraine crisis, with Ms. Hasina repeatedly arguing against interference in the affairs of sovereign countries.

REVIVING OUR IDENTITY AND CULTURAL GRANDEUR

Telangana State boasts of communal harmony, brotherhood, and peaceful coexistence of all faiths. Capital city Hyderabad's truly secular fabric and cosmopolitan culture attracts people from all over the country and world. The cultural festivals of Batukamma and Bonalu have been revived by the government to involve all people in a celebration of the state's forgotten identity. The day-to-day life reflects the Ganga-Jamuna tehzeeb, the poetic phrase for a distinctive, syncretic Hindu-Muslim culture, which is also reflected in the crafts and cultural ethos - in form, symbolism and aesthetics.

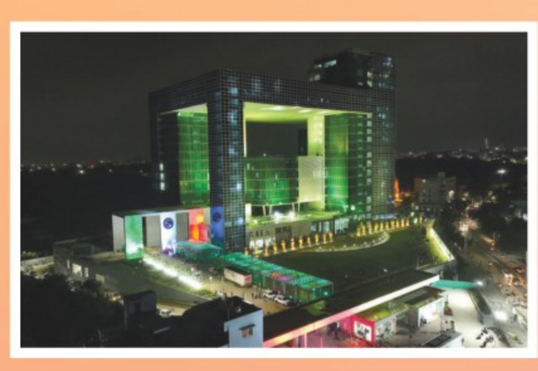
THE YADADRI TEMPLE COMPLEX

The glorious and spell-binding 17-acre temple complex has transformed the 1000 year old hillock temple dedicated to the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy into an architectural marvel, and has become the hallmark of cultural and spiritual glory of the state. It's the only temple in India built with Krishna Shila (blackstone).

HYDERABAD
INDIA'S FASTEST GROWING MEGAPOLIS

MOST LIVEABLE CITY

Hyderabad, the cosmopolitan and truly secular global Indian city, stands out as much as it assimilates. For five years in a row, Mercer's Quality of Living Index has crowned Hyderabad as the best city to live in, in India. The global survey upheld its many attributes, such as investment in economic and public infrastructure, large international and local human talent pool, availability of a large number of consumables with superb social infrastructure, and so on. The 2022 'Cost of Living' survey highlights Hyderabad's affordable living costs compared to other metros. UNESCO, in 2019, named it 'Creative City of Gastronomy', a tribute to its rich cuisine. It was adjudged 'Tree City of the World', for two years in a row for the extraordinary green foliage created in the city.



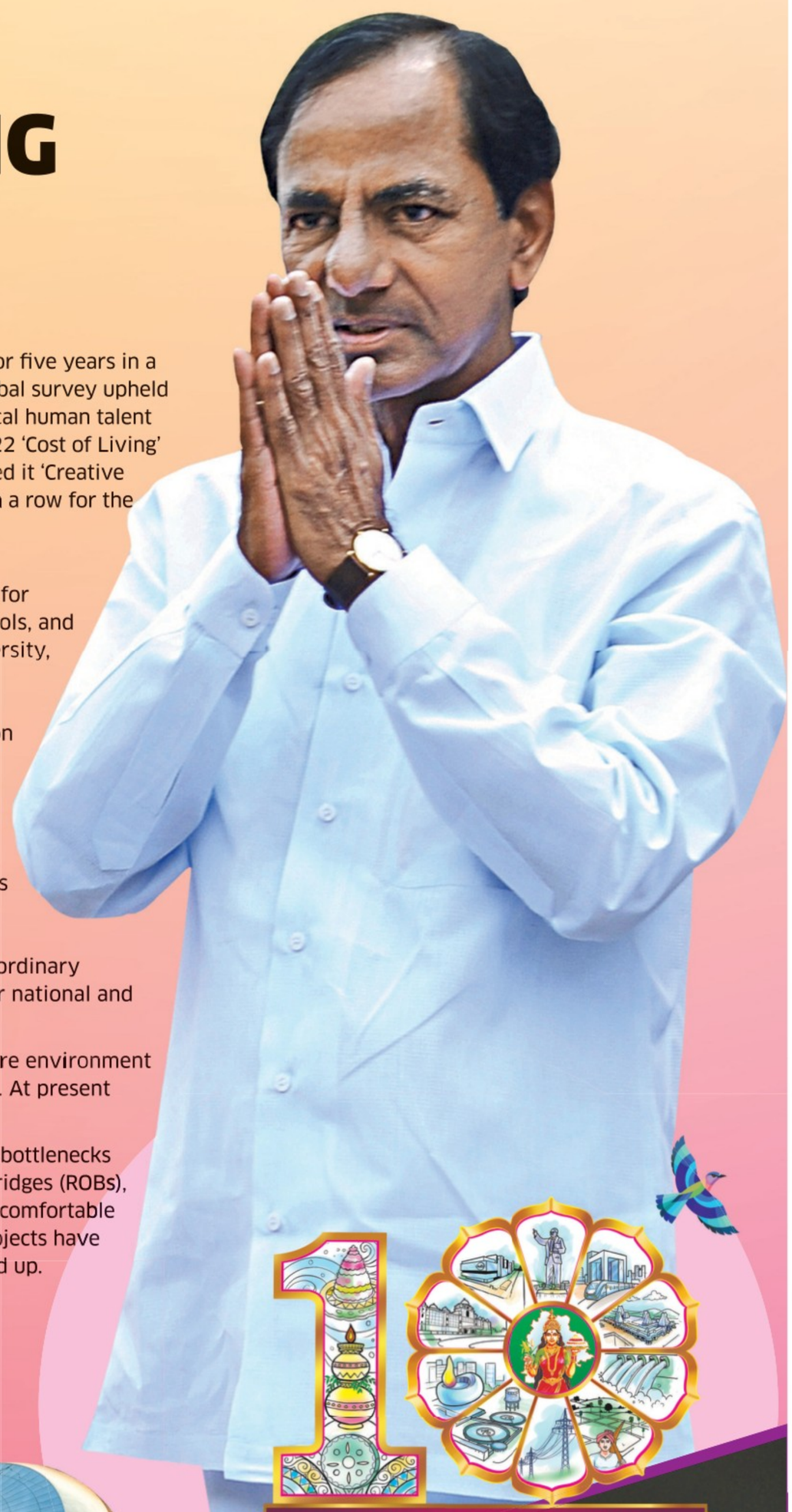
WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION: The city was always known for education, and now has more than 15 international schools, and 100 high quality Indian schools. Historic Osmania University, Gandhi Medical College, Central University, ISB, Nalsar University of Law, IIT Hyderabad, IISER, IIIT Hyderabad, TISS Hyderabad, and many more private higher education institutions make the city a student's dream city for education.

MICE CAPITAL: The city of pearls welcomes audiences from across the globe every week for international conferences, summits, as Hyderabad is one of the world's recognised MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) destinations. The world class infrastructure, warm hospitality and culture, indigenous arts, and extraordinary heritage make for an unparalleled mix of experiences for national and international guests.

SHE TEAMS: 'SHE Teams' provide a totally safe and secure environment for women within the larger concept of friendly policing. At present there are 331 SHE Teams working in Telangana State.

SRDP: A total of 47 infrastructural projects to ease traffic bottlenecks at important junctures in the city, a series of road-over-bridges (ROBs), Road Under Bridges (RUBs), and other facilities to ensure comfortable commuting experience in the sprawling megapolis. 31 projects have been completed, and in 2023 alone, and 11 more are lined up.

POLICE COMMAND CONTROL CENTRE, ICCC: Telangana State is known for its extraordinary Law and Order ecosystem. An iconic landmark and centre for further excellence, the surveillance behemoth and nerve centre of predictive policing, the ICCC is conceptualised as part of modernisation of police force.



TELANGANA FORMATION DECENNIAL CELEBRATIONS 2014 - 2023

issued by special commissioner, I&PR Department, Government of Telangana

COUNTRY NEEDS THE TELANGANA MODEL, COUNTRY NEEDS KCR'S LEADERSHIP

Online part-time job frauds are the new trend in cybercrime

Cyber police have launched 112, a toll-free service to help victims report cyber fraud immediately so that the transactions can be reversed

Imran Gowhar
BENGALURU

When 30-year-old Surabhi Kulkarni, a private firm employee from Nandini Layout, received a WhatsApp message offering an online part-time job to earn quick money, she replied immediately, thinking of making some extra income through moonlighting. She checked for details and was told to like and share some Instagram links to earn ₹70 per task.

Ms. Kulkarni then got onto the job and even earned quick returns. Little did she know that it was a trap as the caller made another proposition of earning a huge sum in no time through online trading investments of up to 40%.

Excited by this, she convinced her family and invested ₹21.03 lakh through three different bank accounts. Within minutes, she realised that she had been cheated as the money and the accused vanished. A shocked Ms. Kulkarni rushed to the North Division Cybercrime Police Station, where she realised that what happened to her wasn't an isolated case.

She was among nine people who were cheated by online part-time job scams and lost lakhs of rupees in a span of two days.

According to the police, Shobha Surendra, 49, from Anandnagar lost ₹20 lakh, while Harish Kumar Hemanth Raju, 36, from Heggnahalli, lost ₹3.3 lakh. The others were Lakshmi Chandra Shekhar, 32, who lost ₹1.8 lakh, Ravi Mahabaleshwar, 34, who lost ₹ 1.04 lakh and Tara Bahadur Thapa, 47, from R.T. Nagar, who lost ₹1.06 lakh.

Illustration: Sebastian Francis

A common modus operandi

"There are many others who have lost money in thousands, and we have lost count," a police officer working in the police station said. "On average, we receive three to four such cases every day. This is the latest method adopted by cyber fraudsters," added the police.

Ravindra K. Gadadi, DCP, command centre, who is keeping a tab on the cybercrime cases in the city, reiterated that prevention is better than cure to escape from being cheated. The cybercrime police have launched awareness campaigns on social media, alerting people not to entertain random calls offering part-time jobs and investments offering high returns .

The cyber police also launched 112, a toll-free service to help victims report cyber fraud immediately so that the transactions can be reversed. According to Mr. Gagadi, the police have so far managed to recover a total sum of ₹9.3 crore in the financial year. However, going by the number of cases registered every day and the money lost estimated to be ₹50.9 crore in the last five months of this year, the recovery amount is not up to the mark.

The newly appointed Director General and Inspector General of Police, Alok Mohan, admitted that there are increasing incidents of cybercrime cases and investigations and recovery in this cases are not up to the mark.

Mr. Mohan said the existing cybercrime police stations across the State would be strengthened to tackle the menace, and even the police officers at the regular law and order police stations would be trained to investigate cybercrime rleated cases.

> On average, we receive three to four such cases every day. This is the latest method adopted by cyber fraudsters
> **POLICE OFFICER**

Job-related cases reported from January to May 15, 2023

Total cases 598

Total amount lost ₹18,05,79,985

Total amount kept on hold in different banks
₹3,44,45,355

Money refunded to complainants
₹1,19,575

Some of the cases in the recent past in all eight divisions (from May 15 to May 17)

NORTH DIVISION CEN PS: **Maruthi Nayak** , 37 from T. Dasarahalli lost
₹ 2.8 lakh

SOUTH DIVISON CEN PS: **Syed Imran Sha Maqsud,** 37, JP Nagar lost
₹5.9 lakh

South East CEN: **Srinivas K.** BTM layout, lost
₹ 1.06 lakh

NORTH EAST CEN: **Vani K.** Vidyaranyapura lost
₹ 2.6 lakh
while **Ramyashri Narendra** lost
₹ 2.3 lakh

CENTRAL CEN: **Sunitha Rani,** 32, Adugodi lost
₹1.5 lakh

EAST CEN: **Deepak Kumar Singh,** 36, commercial street lost
₹1.06 lakh; **Darshith Puttaraju,** 25, Laggere, lost
₹3.5 lakh

WEST DIVISION CEN : **Yogesh Nanjappachar,** 29, Vijayanagar lost
₹ 1.5 lakh

If it is too good to be true, it probably is

GUEST COLUMN

C.K. Baba

Online job frauds in Bengaluru predominantly target IT professionals seeking remote work options. Fraudsters pose as legitimate employers or recruitment agencies, offering attractive job opportunities with promises of high salaries, flexible working hours, and the convenience of working from home. The other tactic is using social media groups to solve problems and make money. These scams exploit the aspirations and vulnerabilities of individuals looking for better career prospects. These scams predominantly target 20 to 40-year-olds.

In the South East Division, the total number of online job fraud cases is 260 from January 1, 2023, to date. In all these cases, the victims are qualified BTech/BE engineers. The perpetrators use social media like Telegram (167 cases), WhatsApp (52 cases), Instagram and YouTube links (41 cases). The victims have lost ₹11.1 crore (from the registered 260 cases). Individually, the average is ₹ 5 to 10 lakh loss. This statistic is only from the South East division of Bengaluru and reported cases, hence only the tip of the iceberg.

The modus operandi

Fraudsters approach potential victims through popular online platforms, job portals, or social media channels. They employ various tactics to gain the trust of their targets, such as fake company profiles, fabricated testimonials, and persuasive job descriptions. The scammers may also leverage messaging apps like Telegram to communicate with the victims and conduct interviews, further adding an air of authenticity. They lure individual IT professionals to make some quick money by providing solutions or solving problems/tasks.

First, they offer smaller rewards like ₹1,000 for solving easy problems. Once the bank details are shared, and the smaller denomination rewards are shared, the task becomes difficult, and award money increases. The perpetrators (disguised as fellow group members) show evidence in the group of having received higher denomination rewards like ₹1 lakh. This ploy makes it believable and becomes an incentive for others to get similar or higher amounts. The gullible get spurred, and when they solve the next level problem, for example, ₹1 lakh reward amount, the criminal gang asks them to deposit a fee.

Similarly, if a victim expresses interest in a job offer, the scammers proceed to request an initial payment or deposit, usually disguised as a transaction fee. To establish credibility, the fraudsters may even provide a small amount of money as an advance or "return on investment" to convince the victim of the legitimacy of the job. Encouraged by these initial returns, victims often fall deeper into the trap, depositing more money as the scammers continue to demand additional funds for various reasons, such as processing fees, training costs, or tax obligations.

Impact on victims

The lure of easy money in a seemingly legitimate way makes professionals fall victim to these frauds. They face severe consequences, including loss of money, emotional distress, and damage to their professional reputation. Additionally, victims may have shared personal information during the recruitment process, putting them at risk of identity theft and further financial exploitation. Awareness of the modus operandi of these frauds is crucial to safeguard innocent victims from falling into the traps set by cybercriminals. By staying informed, exercising caution, and reporting fraudulent activities, citizens can play an active role in protecting themselves and their peers from the devastating consequences of online job scams.

(The writer is DCP, South East Division)

Awareness of the modus operandi of these frauds is crucial to safeguard victims from falling into the traps set by cybercriminals

Tactics used by fraudsters to trap victims

- **FAKE JOB POSTINGS:** Scammers post fraudulent job advertisements on various online platforms that appear genuine, with detailed job descriptions and convincing company profiles.
- **IMPERSONATION:** Fraudsters assume false identities, masquerading as HR managers, recruiters, or senior executives of well-known companies. They communicate with victims through emails, phone calls, or instant messaging platforms, gaining their trust and establishing credibility. They even stage interviews to make it look and sound authentic.
- **UPFRONT PAYMENT REQUESTS:** Once victims express interest in the job, scammers demand payment for various purposes and convince victims that these payments are necessary to secure jobs or get rewards.
- **MONEY RETURNS AND TRAPPING:** Fraudsters may initially provide small returns on the victim's investment to build trust, and as victims invest more money, scammers gradually increase their demands. Eventually, the scammers vanish or make excuses for non-payment, leaving victims financially devastated.

Preventing Online Job Frauds

- **RESEARCH AND VERIFY:** The legitimacy of the employer by checking their website, social media presence, and contact information.
- **AVOID UPFRONT PAYMENTS:** Legitimate employers rarely ask for upfront payments or fees.
- **REPORT INCIDENT:** Contact local law enforcement agencies, providing them with all relevant details and evidence. Reporting can help raise awareness and prevent others from falling into the same trap.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

A still from *Mungaru Male*. FILE PHOTO

Why romance as a genre has disappeared from Kannada cinema

In an industry obsessed with pan-Indian projects, A-list stars have turned their back on romance. Industry insiders believe that the current generation mistakes intense scenes for melodrama, explaining why directors don't aim high with their plots

Vivek M.V.

In the 2006 Kannada film *Mungaru Male*, as we root for Preetham (Ganesh) to make Nandini fall in love with him, director Yogaraj Bhat springs a cruel surprise. He fills our hearts with hope with the now-evergreen love song 'Anisuthide Yako Indu' only to quash our expectations with a heart-wrenching scene right after it. Preetham, a shattered man, accepts defeat in love. In a pain-soaked voice, as he drenches in the pouring rain, he tells Nandini that he will find peace living with her memories. Thus was born the new millennium quintessential selfless romantic hero of Kannada cinema.

Fast forward ten years, Ganesh and Bhat reunite for *Mugulu Nage*. In a film which depicts different kinds of love stories, women get the agency to leave relationships. Pulakeshi (Ganesh), the protagonist, breaks up with his college sweetheart Vaishali (Ashika Ranganath) because he isn't as sure as her of going abroad for higher studies at the cost of staying away from his family. He is again a second time unlucky, when a self-assured Siri says she doesn't believe in the concept of marriage; she believes in staying together without a label to the relationship.

This refreshing change in approach to the romance genre reflects the experimental nature of Bhat. Between these two films, the industry reaped immense benefits from the genre before slowly forgetting the art of making solid romantic dramas. It's hard to think of a good Kannada love story in recent times, with perhaps K.S. Ashoka's old-school yet emotionally engaging *Dia* (2020) being the only worthy film to mention. Even Bhat failed to weave his magic with *Gaalipata 2* (2022), a pale shadow of his glorious original. Are these signs of changing times?

The romance of old

Spurred by the mammoth success of *Mungaru Male*, directors served engaging relationship dramas to an entire generation that stepped into adulthood in the late 2000s. Bhat's carefree protagonist resonated with the college crowd. He cashed in on their love for travelling by placing his films in exotic locales (Jog Falls in *Mungaru Male;* the highest peak of Kodachadri mountains in *Gaalipata*; the coastal beauty in *Paramathma*). His heroes followed their hearts in stories that debated sanity as in *Mansaare*, and questioned the conservative attitude of Indian families in *Pancharangi*. Over the years, they have become films that we can watch at any time.

With Bhat's films, which gave us warm fuzzy feelings, Kannada cinema saw romance that felt closer to reality. Films such as *Krishnan Love Story* and *Beautiful Manasugalu* explored love stories marred by the problems of the middle class. Director Suri, from the stables of Bhat, brought out the harrowing effects of drinking in *Inthi Ninna Preethiya*, in which the protagonist gets addicted to alcohol after a love failure. Prem, riding high on three blockbusters, made his most ambitious film *Ee Preethi Yeke Bhooi Melide*. He questioned the existence and purpose of love in that film which begins with the who's who of Karnataka (like former C.M. HD Kumaraswamy, seer of Adichunchanagiri, Balagangadharanatha Swamiji) expressing their thoughts on love. A unique concept notwithstanding, the film was a colossal disaster and rightly so. A highly self-indulgent Prem made a messy film with a confused script.

The Kannada audience have a liking for films with heartbreaks. Perhaps inspired by the acceptance to the tragic end of *Mungaru Male*, director Nagashekhar aimed for similar results with *Sanju Weds Geetha* and *Mynna*. While his writing wasn't ambitious in both films, they were made with technical nuance. The endings impacted the audiences, who found it cathartic to watch them and weep.

It was also necessary to have a hit music album for a romantic film to work. It was a phase when writer Jayanth Kaikini and composers V. Harikrishna and Mano Murthy were at the zenith of their creativity. Many love songs enhanced the portrayal of young love, especially the album of *Paramathma* which goes straight to our heart like no other collection of songs. The lack of quality music is one of the shortcomings in today's Kannada romantic films.

A lack of love

The earliest cracks in the genre were visible when we saw couples (*Addhuri*, *Googly*) breaking up for silly obstacles. Even though they haven't aged well, these films worked because of the crackling chemistry between the leads. It is interesting to see why filmmakers don't consider love the most important thing today in their stories. The idea of commitment and the challenges that come with it are absent in Kannada films. Suni, with the dialogue-heavy yet quirky and enjoyable romance drama *Simple Agi Ondh Love Story*, and Pawan Kumar, with his delightfully-contemporary take on relationships in *Lifeu Ishtene*, were able to bring out the complexities of modern relationships. But just a few fresh attempts cannot revive a genre. Romance in Kannada cinema has been forgettable from 2016 as directors have resorted to unimaginative sequels of successful originals. They have also used the genre as an excuse to churn out tasteless comedies (*Tribble Riding*, *Love Birds*, *Bi Two Love*, *Mr Bachelor*). You sense an urge from filmmakers to please the Instagram-hooked generation with short-bursts of entertainment.

Amidst the ruins, the genre was partly visible in the right spirit in coming-of-age dramas such as *Kirik Party*, *Gantumoote* and *Love Mocktail*. Roopa Rao's *Gantumoote* told the story of a woman, a rare phenomenon in Kannada.

Industry insiders believe that the current generation of film buffs mistake intense scenes for melodrama, explaining why directors don't aim high with their plots. The filmmakers' understanding of modernity is on how youngsters dress and behave. Sadly, such characters on screen (in *Ek Love Ya* and *Raymo*) don't have a mind of their own or the dignity they deserve. Some attempts touch the surface of a relatable topic, like how Ninna Sanihake squandered an opportunity to portray the dynamics of a live-in-relationship. Now the Kannada film industry is in need of its next breakout romantic star, with Ganesh, once a golden boy of romance, trying to stay relevant. Darling Krishna, who broke through with *Love Mocktail* has a charming on-screen presence, but his consistently terrible script selection has dented his rising career.

The road ahead

Rakshit Shetty's upcoming *Sapta Sagaradaache Yello*, directed by Hemanth. M.Rao (of *Godhi Banna Sadharana Mykattu* fame) could offer the much-needed change to the genre. The film seems like an intense relationship drama, right up the alley of Rakshit, and a favourite concept of 90s kids. All eyes are on *Swathi Mutthina Male Haniye* as well, Raj. B. Shetty's third film. Though the film is shrouded in suspense, the posters indicate a serious love story.

In an industry obsessed with pan-Indian projects, A-list stars have turned their back on romance. There is no doubting their abilities. Even when Sudeep consciously chased a 'mass' image, he was also convincing as a vulnerable man in love in *Mussanje Maathu* and *Just Maath Maathali*.

The most striking example of a star's stint with romance in that period is Puneeth Rajkumar's *Paramathma*. With Bhat's arresting filmmaking combined with composer Harikrishna's best work, *Paramathma* is one of the finest tragic love stories. The film's end feels poetic with his passing away. It is a film that will move you unless you are a rock. Kannada cinema needs more such classics.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Illinois is to become the first state in the U.S. to end book bans. A quiz on banned books

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1

This book was banned in South Africa for many years because of its two-word title. Though the classical novel, set in 19th century England, is about an animal, representatives of the South African government were worried that the book may contain racially charged language. Which book is this?

QUESTION 2

This classic French satire lampoons armies, churches and philosophers and was banned by the Catholic Church. It contains the famous phrase: "Let us eat the Jesuit. Let us eat him up!" Which book is this?

QUESTION 3

Ernest Hemingway believed that all American literature came from this book, while Louisa May Alcott publicly rebuked the author of this book saying that he may as well stop writing if he could not think of better things to say to "pure-minded lads." The use of slang in this book was seen as demeaning. Which book is this?

QUESTION 4

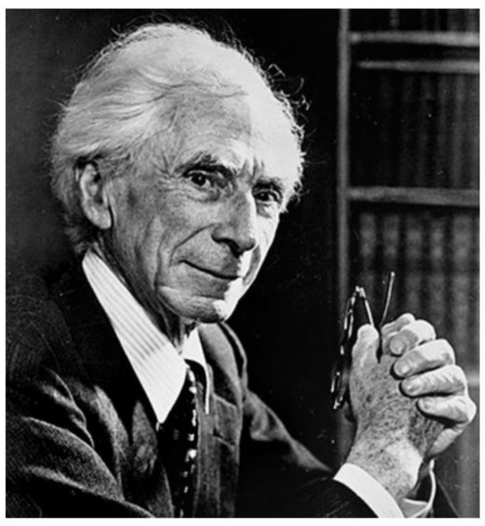
This author's work sparked riots across the world for its allegedly blasphemous treatment of Islam. The author recently made his first public appearance following an attack on his life. Who is he?

QUESTION 5

This Sahitya Award-winning writer was suspended from service for writing this book without taking permission from his State government. His book was banned for allegedly hurting the dignity of the Santhal tribe. Name the author and the book.

QUESTION 6

This writer proclaimed himself "dead" after he came under attack for his book from Hindutva and caste outfits. The English translation of this book was long-listed for the International Booker Prize 2023. Who is this Tamil writer?



Visual question:
Who is this Nobel Laureate whose book was banned in India for its negative portrayal of the Sino-India war?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's quiz: 1. This is how milk is toned. **Ans: Full-fat buffalo milk is diluted with skim milk and water to reduce its fat content.**
2. The Sanskrit name for the Ocean of Milk that was churned to get nectar. **Ans: Kshira Sagara**
3. A cow's milk is slightly yellowish in colour because of this. **Ans: Carotene**
4. If it is Milma for Kerala, what is it for Karnataka. **Ans: Nandini**
5. This word describes the mammary glands of female cattle, goats, etc. **Ans: Udder**
6. This happens when 'micelles' scatter light. **Ans: The milk appears white in colour**
7. The two-word term used for a condition which doesn't allow you to consume milk. **Ans: Lactose intolerance**
Visual: This man is called the 'Father of the White Revolution of India'. **Ans: Verghese Kurien**
Early Birds: Himanshu Verma| Bhamini Pande| R. Barath| Sunil Kannada| Indira Priyadarshini

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Mrs. Sharada Sundaram, Kanpur, wants to know the meaning of 'genre'."

"It means 'kind or style, especially of art or literature'. 'Genre painting' is painting in which subjects from everyday life are treated realistically'. The 'g' is pronounced like the 's' in 'measure' and 'pleasure'. The 'e' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'path'. The 'n' in the word is pronounced like the 'n' in 'none' and the 'r' is pronounced like the 'r' in 'rat'. The final 'e' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China'. The word is of French origin and is still pronounced in somewhat the French way. 'Genre', 'gender', 'genus' are all from the same root. The stress is on the first syllable.

The novel and poetry are two literary genres."

"Sir, Mr. S. Khader Basha wants to know the difference between 'contest' and 'compete'.

" 'Compete' implies 'having a sense of rivalry and of striving to do one's best as well as to outdo another'.

There is a healthy rivalry in competition.

Competere in Latin means 'to seek together'. Each one tries to do his/her best and the one who does best wins. A 'contest' is 'a struggle for victory or superiority'. 'Contest' is a stronger word than competition. In competition, the emphasis is more on the effort than on mere achievement. This may not be always realised or understood. But that's what a competition implies. A contest is a struggle for something. The emphasis in 'contest' is on the aspect of struggle. The word is from Latin contestari, 'to call to witness (in a law suit)'. Of late, there has been a tendency to use 'contest' in the sense of 'competition'. We hear of beauty contests and debating contests. It tells us a great deal about the attitude of modern participants! What's the next question?"

"Sir, Miss M. Suman wants to know the meaning of the idiom 'to wear one's heart on one's sleeve'."

"The heart is said to be the seat of emotions. When you wear it on your sleeve, everyone would know what your feelings are, what your emotions are. When you wear your heart on your sleeve, you let others know your feelings and emotions. You don't hide them from others. This is the meaning of the idiom.

He wears his heart on his sleeve.

In American English it is also used in the sense of 'fall in love easily'. Do you know what 'laugh in one's sleeve' means?"

"No, sir."

"A sleeve is that part of the garment that covers your arm. When you laugh in your sleeve, it is not noticed by others. You do it secretly. You are said to laugh in your sleeve when you laugh inwardly.

I laughed in my sleeve when he made those pompous remarks."

"Sir, Mr. P. Asokan wants to know the meaning of nom do plume."

"A nom de plume is the name that a writer uses instead of his real name. It is his pen-name or pseudonym. Mark Twain is the nom do plume of Samuel Langhorne Clemens. He was an American writer and humorist. The interesting thing about nom de plume is that the French don't use it. It is a French expression coined by the English! It is rather strange but true!"

Published in The Hindu on March 15, 1988.

Word of the day

Flail:
give a thrashing to; beat hard; thresh about

Synonyms: thrash, thresh

Usage: *Her arms were flailing.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/flailpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fleɪl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Director Shashank Soghal talks about the making of *Daredevil Musthafa* and the challenges his team faced

Daring to think out of the box

Vivek MV
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Director Shashank Soghal and his team were halfway through their dream project when the pandemic struck in 2020. The software engineer-turned-filmmaker was anxious about his debut venture as he had not even announced the project. Thus, was born a unique marketing campaign for the crowd-funded *Daredevil Musthafa*, the Kannada film which has been making waves since its release on May 19.

The film is based on Poornachandra Tejaswi's short story of the same name. Readers are not easily satisfied with movie adaptations of their favourite works. Well aware of this challenge, Shashank first grabbed the attention of fans with a series of promotional videos.

What began as a three-part title announcement video developed into a well-designed promotional strategy helped by off-beat ideas and neat execution. "Generally, title announcement videos have visuals from the film or the film's name," says Shashank. "We shot three promotional videos and released them in the lead-up to Tejaswi's birthday."

The first video is a catchy interaction between Shashank and a man at a photocopying centre. "The story is the hero," Shashank says to the man as he takes a copy of his film's script. The second shows an audition for aspiring filmmakers to work as assistant directors on *Daredevil Musthafa*. The contestants are asked about Tejaswi, and their ignorant responses generate laughs.

It was the third video that impressed Tejaswi's fans, says Shashank. The makers shot it in Tejaswi's house in Chikkamagaluru district. You hear the voice and see the blurry image of a fictional Tejaswi, who grants the team permission to make a film on his work.

"Many said the video was magical," says Shashank. "We felt as though Tejaswi himself granted us the rights to do the film. The video was a huge hit with his fans," he says.

Daredevil Musthafa then offered a tribute to thespian Dr Rajkumar through an innovative animation song, *Ninnathor Yaaru Ilavallo* (composed by BV Karanth). "The song is part of the film. In the scene, you see a stage performance that tells the story of Ranadheera Kanteerava in the format of an animation video featuring Rajkumar as he had played the Mysuru emperor in the 1960 film," he says.

From the start, the film's pre-release activities targeted youth by using social media to increase the buzz around *Daredevil Musthafa*. "We created suspense around the central character, Musthafa," says Shashank.

Celebrity push and release

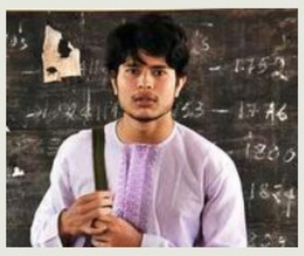
Actor-director Dhananjaya, Shashank's senior in college, came on board to present *Daredevil Musthafa*. It was a much-needed boost for the little-known film, and the makers announced a meet-and-greet session with those who funded the film.

It was a masterstroke by Shashank to ask social media influencer Gagan Srinivas, popularly known as Dr Bro, to give the voiceover for the trailer. "Dr Bro is seen as a youth icon. We first thought of a senior person and tried to approach Sudha Murthy. When that idea failed, we convinced Dr Bro to do it."

As part of the release plans, the team announced a cashback offer to those who watch the film in the first week. "Apart from that, we scheduled ₹1 premiere shows in Shivamogga, Mysuru, and Bengaluru, and all three screenings enjoyed a full house."

Films without established stars can create the right noise with out-of-box ideas, Shashank says. However, he admits, "It's an energy-sapping process; I might not be able to execute it again. The effort was worth it, though. People are so comfortable watching films on OTT platforms, it takes a lot of work to convince them to watch your film in theatres."

Daredevil Musthafa got encouraging footfalls on the first weekend and grew steadily by word of mouth. In a dull first few months of 2023 for Kannada cinema, the film is a positive for the industry.



Penny wise Director Shashank Soghal (centre) came up with innovative ways to get the most out of his budget; and stills from the film. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mind full of melody

Singer Prithvi Prajosh is all set to release three new singles and his second album in June 2023 and make his mark as a songwriter

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Prithvi Prajosh, an Indian singer and songwriter based in Los Angeles, has chosen to tread the road not oft taken. Heavily inspired by Coldplay, John Mayer and Harry Styles, he gave up a career in computer science to pursue his passion for music.

He has already released over 20 songs, collaborating with other indie musicians in LA and released his first album in March 2020.

Prithvi's journey with music started later than most. Growing up in Bengaluru, he had little inclination towards music. Quite reluctantly, he started taking piano classes at his mother's insistence from the age of eight. However, he started teaching himself via online lessons.

After a five-year stint with the ukulele, he became interested in writing and singing his own songs.

However, the two instruments still hold a lot of influence over Prithvi's creativity. "As a child I would pick up parts of a song that interested me and incorporate it into my music. For instance, Coldplay's music is very piano heavy while Ed Sheeran's songs lean more towards the guitar."

"I think subconsciously these things have seeped into my way of making music. My primary instrument for creating music now is the piano while my next album has more groovy guitar riffs like Sheeran's songs," Prithvi adds.

Talking about his journey towards songwriting, Prithvi recalls performing at events during his Bachelor's at Manipal University. From open mics to private performances, he did not miss an opportunity to sing even though he was not actively pursuing a career in music.

Slow and steady Prithvi Prajosh is making up for late entry into the field of music with a slew of singles. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"At that point of time I saw myself as more of a singer than a songwriter," says Prithvi. Though he had written a couple of originals back then, his interest grew much later.

In 2016, when he was working with a cyber security firm in Dubai, Prithvi had the chance to open for Adnan Sami. Performing in front of a 2,000-strong crowd, he knew he had found his calling.

He enrolled for a graduate programme in Songwriting at the Berklee College of Music, USA, and in 2020, wrote a tribute song for cricketer Virat Kohli which was well received.

Tracing the trajectory of his music, Prithvi talks about writing his very first song. Inspired by break-up he penned 'Heartbreak' which saw the light of day for the first time after 10 years at a recent performance in Dubai. His first album, titled *The Two of Us* features a re-imagined version of 'Heartbreak', incorporating all the new things he has learnt as a songwriter and from his experiences.

"Coldplay was my first concert. I saw people tearing up while the band was playing. I want to people to feel like that when they hear my music," he says.

Prithvi has dabbled in a variety of genres such as indie pop, RnB and EDM, too.

His most recent collaborations have been with fellow independent musicians like Thomas Ng, an RnB artist, ASHWYN, a rising talent in EDM. He also won the Best Male Vocalist award by a Kochi-based music website in 2021.

With three more singles and an entire new album called *Hello Sunshine* in the pipeline, which will be released on June 16, Prithvi is all about "living the musician's life".

A double bill

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Kathputliyan Theatre Group (KTG) will present two plays this weekend – *Pashmina* and *Didi IAS* – both written by Mrinal Mathur and directed by Zafer Mohiuddin, founder of Kathputliyaan Theatre Group.

Ask him what inspired him to choose these specific plays and Zafer says: "*Pashmina* revolves around a journey of loss and is set in Kashmir. It follows the journey of an old couple who lose their young son. *Didi IAS* is a satirical comedy on our bureaucracy."

Both plays premiere in Bengaluru and will travel to Delhi in June, says Zafer revealing that the plays, though fictional in content, will be staged in a realistic manner.

The plays will be staged at Alliance Francaise on June 4 at 4.30pm and 7.30pm, respectively. Tickets are available on BookMyShow.

STEPOUT

Be desi, buy desi

A 10-day Indian Haat Festival will be on at ChitraKala Parishath. There on display will be artefacts, toys, designer clothes, household items, handloom products, handcrafted jewellery and more. Entry is free. *On from June 2 to 11 from 11am to 7pm.*

Travel truths

The documentary film *Building Bridges* will be screened by Rahul Chandawarkar. This travel documentary encapsulates the experiences of a Pune-based Urdu theatre troupe's journey in Lahore. *The film will be screened on June 3 at Atta Galatta at 6pm. Call 9632510126 for details.*

Celebration menu

To celebrate its 12th anniversary, Cafe Delhi Heights is setting out a special menu. From galouti kabab, country style crunchy, cottage chilli cheese and Mumbaiya wada pav to juicy Lucy burgers, the cafe claims to serve it all. *The menu will available from June 1 to 15.*

Testing waters

Vijay Suriya, who has made a name for himself in the Kannada film industry, makes his debut on Telugu TV

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Kannada actor Vijay Suriya delves into the world of the visually impaired in *Krishnamma Kalipindi Iddarini*, his debut on Telugu television. Directed by Vijay Krishna, *Krishnamma...* on Star Maa, a remake of the Bengali serial *Saanjher Baati* is a love story. Without revealing much, he says over the phone, "My character Eshwar is not blind by birth but becomes blind due to an accident and develops a strong sense of hearing after this vision loss."

Portraying the character without caricaturing or stereotyping, Vijay inhabits the world of sightlessness to evoke empathy. "The audience will not sympathise with Eshwar but the circumstances he is forced into."

Vijay reflects on different events that led to him entering the Telugu industry and says, things fall in place when the time comes. "Three people told me to try Telugu television, my friends who worked in the Telugu industry said one can learn the language in four months. Then I got a call from the production house for *Krishnamma...*"

Since his acting debut with *Crazy Loka* in 2011, Vijay, a known face in the Kannada industry has been steadily inching towards stardom. With three films and six television serials, he is one of the few actors who effortlessly shifts between the two mediums. Vijay says, "My mother, who also takes care of my work, tells me not to differentiate between TV and cinema... an actor puts in the same effort, only the medium changes."

Big dreams Vijay Suriya. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He played protagonist Siddharth in *Agnisakshi*, on Colours Kannada, which ran for six years and got him recognition. "Viewers' appreciation is a tonic to keep us going and drives the market." A father to a three-year-old boy, he plays a reel dad in Kannada serial *Namma Lachi* currently aired on Star Suvarna.

From being an introvert to fulfilling his dream to be an actor has been a long journey. "I enjoyed dancing and loved to be on stage but was too shy to talk about it." He mustered the courage to tell his career choice to parents, who supported his decision to do a filmmaking course from Whistling Woods in Mumbai. "I have worked hard to be where I am now and my only goal is to be honest in my portrayals," says Vijay, whose new projects include *Veeraputra* and an untitled film in Kannada.

INBRIEF

'Guarantees': All eyes on Cabinet meeting today

The State Cabinet is meeting on Friday amid expectations on a decision to implement the five pre-poll 'guarantees' given by the Congress.

While the Finance Department on Wednesday provided multiple options to implement these guarantees through a presentation to the Council of Ministers, the final contours would be known on Friday. On Thursday, it is learnt that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who holds the Finance portfolio, met several Cabinet colleagues while Finance Department officials were involved in the preparation of the Cabinet note that would set the tone for discussion on the guarantees at the meeting on Friday.

Australian Consul General calls on Siddaramaiah

Australian Consul General in India Barry O'Farrell called on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and held talks in Bengaluru on Thursday.

The Chief Minister said the State was keen to partner with Australia in various fields and expressed happiness over the opening of the Australian Consulate in Bengaluru in a few days.

Australian Consul General in South India Sara Kirlev, Deputy Consul General Hyung-Min Kim, designated Deputy Consul General of the Australian Consulate-General to be established in Bengaluru, State IT and Biotechnology Department Additional Chief Secretary E.V. Ramana Reddy, and other officers were present.

State to hand over land to Foxconn by July 1

Company plans to start manufacturing iPhone units by April 2024, says Minister M.B. Patil; the ₹13,600-crore project is expected to generate 50,000 jobs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil and IT and Biotechnology Minister Priyank Kharge with representatives of Foxconn in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil on Thursday said that Foxconn plans to start manufacturing iPhone units by April 2024 at its proposed Devanahalli plant as the State government would be handing over the required land by this July 1.

"The identified 300 acres of land at ITIR at Devanahalli would be handed over by July 1. Along with this, the government would ensure 5 MLD of water, quality power supply, road connectivity, and other infrastructure facilities," Mr. Patil said, after meeting representatives of the company, who were on a courtesy call. IT and Biotechnology Minister Priyank Kharge was also present.

Mr. Patil said, "Foxconn has been asked to provide details of the skill sets it seeks from employees. Accordingly, steps will be taken to facilitate training programmes for eligible candidates to make them employable."

> Foxconn has been asked to provide details of the skill sets it seeks from employees. Accordingly, steps will be taken to facilitate training programmes for eligible candidates to make them employable.
>
> **M.B. PATIL,**
> Large and Medium Industries Minister

A release from his office said that with this, the new government has speeded up the process of setting up the ₹13,600-crore project that is expected to generate 50,000 jobs. It said that the Taiwan-based global company had already paid 30% of the cost towards the land to the KIADB. It had set the goal to complete the project in three phases and had set a target of manufacturing 2 crore units annually from the plant when all the three phases are functional.

The background

A delegation of top executives of Hon Hai Corporation (Foxconn) had signed a letter of intent with the Karnataka government in the first week of March, 2023, to set up a factory at Devanahalli. While the project is also about manufacturing EVs and electronics, among others, statements by politicians about iPhone manufacturing had led the company to clarify on its investments, days after the letter of intent was signed, causing embarrassment to the then BJP dispensation.

The clarification had come in the backdrop of corporate governance issues and also due to strict market regulator in Taiwan.

HC upholds constitutional validity of Section 37A of FEMA

Rejects Xiaomi's petition; asks company to approach the appellate tribunal challenging seizure of ₹5,551.27 crore by ED

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has upheld constitutional validity of Section 37A of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, which empowers the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to seize in India assets equivalent to any foreign exchange, foreign security or any immovable property held outside India in violation of FEMA.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna delivered the judgment while rejecting the petition filed by Xiaomi Technology India Pvt. Ltd. The judgment, which was pronounced on April 21, was released on May 30.

The company had questioned the constitutional validity of Section 37A while challenging the ED's April 2022 action of seizing ₹5,551.27 crore lying in company's bank accounts. The ED had seized the amount on the allegation that the company had sent foreign currency equivalent to ₹5,551.27 crore to three foreign-based entities, which include one Xiaomi group entity, in the guise of royalties in violation of FEMA.

On analysing Section 37A, introduced in the Act in 2015, the court said that "what would unmistakably emerge is that Section 37A of the Act does not suffer from any manifest arbitrariness for this court to strike it down on any of the grounds urged by the petitioner-company."

The company contended that Section 37A of the Act was unconstitutional and that the provision gave unbridled, unfettered, unguided, uncanalised power to attach bank accounts on mere suspicion, without any reason to believe, and attachment of bank account did violate right to property under Article 300A of the Constitution of India.

Safeguards

Rejecting this contention, the court said Section 37A had several safeguards for the aggrieved persons or entity at every rung as seizure order passed under under Section 37A (1) had to "pass muster through several ladders of administrative, quasi-judicial and judicial review before becoming final."

"Suspicion may trigger seizure. Seizure by itself is not final. There are several procedures after such seizure. Therefore, the submission that it is manifestly arbitrary is to be noted only to be rejected, as the very submission is fundamentally flawed," Justice Nagaprasanna observed.

The court also declined to accept the allegation made by the company that the competent authority under FEMA had failed to apply its mind before passing order for seizure. "Every submission of the petitioner-company was noted, considered threadbare, and answered by the competent authority. The competent authority has not left any wood on the tree. Therefore, the order does not suffer from non-application of mind," the court observed.

Meanwhile, the court gave liberty to the company to file an appeal before the Appellate Tribunal under Section 37A(5) challenging the seizure order passed by the competent authority.

Tamil Nadu people should be warm-hearted towards Mekedatu project: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A file photo of the Cauvery at Mekedatu in Ramanagara district.

Karnataka bears no hatred towards the people of Tamil Nadu, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Major and Medium Irrigation D.K. Shivakumar said on Thursday and added that the people of Tamil Nadu should be "warm-hearted" on the issue of Mekedatu drinking water project.

"Tamil Nadu will not face any problem because of the Mekedatu project. We have no hatred towards Tamil Nadu, nor do we have any intention of picking up a fight," Mr. Shivakumar told reporters here. "Enough of running around the courts. We should cordially cooperate to implement the project that will help solve the drinking water problem in Karnataka and benefit farmers in Tamil Nadu."

His response came a day after Tamil Nadu Water Resources Minister Durai Murugan condemned the earlier statement of Mr. Shivakumar as showing "aggressive attitude towards neighbouring States within days after assuming power".

'Will benefit T.N. too'

Mr. Shivakumar said that though Mekedatu was Karnataka's project, it would benefit Tamil Nadu.

"The project will only impound water that is going to the sea and help people in the Cauvery catchment area to utilise it. The keys of reservoirs across the Cauvery are with the Centre, which will decide the quantum of water to be released."

He said that though the State government kept aside ₹1,000 crore towards the project after the Congress held a padayatra, the money had not been utilised.

Tamil Nadu need not be anxious about the project, he said. "The court has ordered that we can conserve water and supply it for drinking water purposes. So, there is no need to be anxious about the project," he said.

Don't cut funds for major schemes while implementing guarantees, Bommai urges CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Trying to corner Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has urged him not to stop any major schemes for want of funds in the process of implementing the pre-poll 'guarantees' of the Congress. He also demanded that the Chief Minister place details about the linking of resources for the guarantees and other prominent schemes before people.

In a letter to the Chief Minister, Mr. Bommai said that Mr. Siddaramaiah himself had indicated that implementation of all the guarantees would require about ₹50,000 crore. People of the State wanted the government to take precautions and also ensure that the interests of farmers and oppressed sections besides crucial sectors of education, health, women's development, and infrastructure were not compromised while implementing the guarantees, he said.

He listed a slew of schemes, including the additional grant of ₹1,500 crore for the revolving fund towards agricultural market intervention, zero per cent interest on farm loans upto ₹5 lakh, and Viveka scheme of building new classrooms as the important ones for which the budgetary grants should not be reduced while implementing the guarantees. He urged the Chief Minister to desist from transferring the burden of implementing the guarantees on people by increasing taxes.

BJP threatens campaign

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ahead of the meeting of the State Cabinet to decide on the mode of implementation of pre-poll 'guarantees', the Opposition BJP has cautioned the Congress of branding it as a "betrayer" and taking up a poster campaign if it failed to keep up its promise of implementing all the 'guarantees' in full.

Speaking to media persons here on Thursday, BJP State general secretary and MLC N. Ravikumar demanded that the government implement all the 'guarantees' made by it to people before the elections. "Friday's Cabinet meeting should walk the talk by giving the green signal to implementation of all the poll guarantees," he said. "Before the polls, the Congress said all households would get 200 units of free power. But now they are saying that it cannot be given to all the families. This is betrayal," he said.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
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Kanakanapalya, Bengaluru - 560011.
Ph: 080-26570088, E-mail: eeckpbbmp@yahoo.com

No: EE/CKP/E-PROC/01/2023-24 Date: 01-06-2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike invites Short Term Request Proposal for **Rate Contract Regarding Removal of Unauthorized Structures in South Zone (Call-3).**

FOLLOWING ARE THE EVENTS OF BID PROCESS:

1) Date of Commencement of Download of Document from e-Procurement Website: **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 01-06-2023. 2)** Last Date and Time for Uploading Online Queries in e-Procurement: **05-06-2023, 2.00 PM. 3)** Date and Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **05-06-2023 at 3.00 PM at the Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 9th Cross, Kanakanapalya, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Jayanagara. 4)** Last Date and Time for Uploading of RFP in e-Procurement Portal: **08-06-2023, 4.00 PM. 5)** Date and Time of Online Opening of RFP: **09-06-2023, 4.30 PM. 6)** Place of Opening of Applications: **Online at e-Procurement Portal. 7)** Address for Communication: **Office of the Executive Engineer, Chikkapet Division, 8th Main, Kanakanapalya, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Jayanagara.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chikkapet Division, BBMP.

Pixxel raises $36 mn to advance hyperspectral satellite constellation and data platform

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru-based Pixxel, which is India's first company to launch private commercial satellites in space, has announced $36 million in a Series B funding round with participation from new investors such as Google, along with existing investors Radical Ventures, Lightspeed, Blume Ventures, GrowX, Sparta, and Athera.

The new funds will advance Pixxel's mission to build the world's first and highest-resolution hyperspectral satellite constellation, delivering actionable climate insights on a planetary scale, the company said in a statement.

It will also help further the development of Aurora: Pixxel's AI-powered analytics platform to make hyperspectral analysis accessible for everyone.

Critical data

Data from Pixxel's satellites will be critical in helping global organisations closely monitor emissions, water pollution, gas leaks, oil spills, soil composition, forest biodiversity, and crop health in unprecedented detail and at faster speeds, it added.

Additionally, the new funds will bolster Pixxel's plans to launch six satellites in 2024 and 18 other satellites by 2025.

"At Pixxel, we believe that the future of our planet lies in our ability to monitor and protect its health precisely. With this round of funding, we are even closer now to realising our mission of building a health monitor for the planet, and empowering people around the world to make informed decisions about our collective well-being," said Awais Ahmed, co-founder and CEO of Pixxel."

Pixxel's hyperspectral satellites can capture images at hundreds of wavelengths in the electromagnetic spectrum and reveal key data about the health of the planet. Both the hyperspectral constellation and advanced data analytics platform will provide up to 10x more information when compared with today's multispectral satellites in space and increase the spectral resolution available by 50x.

Global standards

As the need for better ESG data monitoring and measurement becomes critical, Pixxel's capabilities will help organisations comply with national and global sustainability standards.

Pixxel's venture funding now totals $71 Million, propelling it to the highest-funded space tech start-up in India.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that myclients propose to purchase the below mentioned property from **Sri.Naresh.R.Lohia**, S/o **Sri.Ratilal.A.Lohia** residing at II Cross, Boal Building, Gandhinagar, Bangalore- 560009, who have represented that they acquired title to the schedule property in terms of a Sale deed dated: 13.02.1981 executed by **Smt. Jaya Shree. H.Shukla.** Persons objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right in the schedule property may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within seven days from the date of this publication and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my clients will proceed to purchase the below mentioned property as if there are no claimants/objections.

Schedule :

Site Bearing B.D.A Site No.288 in Magadi Road, Chord Road extension, Bangalore - 560023. Site measuring East to West: 40 Feet and North to South 60 Feet in all 2,400 Square feet, and bounded by:

East : Site No.289, **West** : Site No.287
North : Road: and **South**: Site No.283

Kusuma Santhosh,
Kusuma Advocates,
No.1127, R.H.Road Bangarpet - 563 114

Bangarpet **Date: 25-05-2023**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Chickpet Division, 8th Main, 2nd Block, Jayanagar,
Kanakanapalya, Bangalore -560 011.

No.EE/CKP/e-proc/02/2023-24 Date: 01.06.2023

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Single Cover)

The Executive Engineer, Chickpete Division, invites tenders from eligible Contractors for the works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Establishment of temporary control room for monsoon period (01.06.2023 to 30.09.2023) in Kempegowdanagara Sub Division.	05.00	12,500/-
2	Establishment of temporary control room for monsoon period (01.06.2023 to 30.09.2023) in Hombegowdanagar Sub Division.	05.00	12,500/-

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GOK e-Procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Last date for submission of Bid document : **08.06.2023 upto 4:00 p.m. 3)** Date of opening of Technical Bid: **09.06.2023 at 4:30 p.m.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka. gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chickpete Division.

INBRIEF

Three die in explosion at fireworks unit in Salem

Three persons were killed and six others were fighting for their lives after crackers exploded in a fireworks unit in Salem on Thursday. The police said K. Sathishkumar, 35, a resident of Sarkar Kollapatti near Salem Steel Plant, owned a cracker manufacturing unit. Around 4.15 p.m., when Sathishkumar and others were working, the crackers exploded accidentally. In the impact, three persons – Sathishkumar, S. Sendrayan, 50, and a woman (yet to be identified) – died on the spot. Locals who heard the explosion alerted the Fire and Rescue Services Department. Firefighters extinguished the flames after 30 minutes. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced ₹3 lakh each for the families of the deceased and ₹50,000 each for the injured.

Sunil Kanugolu is Karnataka Chief Minister's adviser

Sunil Kanugolu, poll strategist for Congress in the recently concluded Assembly elections in Karnataka, has been appointed adviser to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, according to an order issued on Wednesday. His team was instrumental in the poll strategy and management of the Congress. Meanwhile, A.S. Ponnanna, Virajpet MLA, has been appointed legal adviser to the Chief Minister.

Telangana to celebrate 10th year of formation from today

Stage is all set for the launch of celebrations of 10th year of Telangana State's formation on Friday. Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao will launch the celebrations at a meeting being organised on the premises of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat and the celebrations will continue for 21 days.

DMK will strongly oppose Delhi Ordinance, says Stalin

After a meeting with Delhi CM Kejriwal in Chennai, T.N. CM stresses need to 'protect democracy', appeals to all Opposition parties to oppose the Bill in Parliament when it is tabled by the Centre

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam president M.K. Stalin on Thursday said that the DMK will strongly oppose the Ordinance promulgated by the BJP-led government at the Centre, to effectively nullify the Supreme Court judgment, which said Delhi's elected government and not its Lieutenant-Governor had powers over managing the services of the bureaucrats.

Addressing the media after a meeting with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who had come to Chennai to seek DMK's support against the Ordinance, Mr. Stalin appealed to Chief Ministers of other States and leaders of national parties to oppose the Ordinance when the Centre attempts to pass it as a Bill in Parliament.

T.N. CM M. K. Stalin with his Delhi and Punjab counterparts Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Mann respectively in Chennai. R. RAGU

The "healthy discussion" he had with Mr. Kejriwal was towards protecting democracy. "Such coordination is needed to protect democracy. That is my wish," he said.

Mr. Kejriwal said he was grateful to Mr. Stalin for his warm welcome and assurance to oppose the Ordinance. Mr. Kejriwal said the Ordinance was unconstitutional, undemocratic and against the federal structure.

'Semifinal before 2024'

While the BJP has majority in the Lok Sabha, he said it had only 93 members in the Rajya Sabha. Equating this attempt by the Opposition to defeat the Bill as a semifinal match, he said if the Bill is defeated, it will send a strong message that the Opposition has come together and Mr. Modi-led government will not return to power in 2024.

(With inputs from New Delhi)

Franco resigns as Jalandhar bishop

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Franco Mulakkal, the controversial bishop of Jalandhar, accused of sexual misconduct by a nun in his diocese.

The bishop's resignation signals a partial victory for those who had demanded his removal from office in an unprecedented public protest in Kochi for the better part of September 2018.

Those who participated in the protest included a group of nuns from a religious order founded in the Jalandhar Latin diocese, as well as reform-minded leaders of the Church, priests, and lay people.

A communication on Thursday from the Vatican Ambassador in Delhi said that Pope Francis accepted the resignation. The letter underlined that the Holy See respected the verdict of the Additional District and Sessions Court, Kottayam, acquitting bishop Mulakkal of the crime as well as the appeal against the acquittal which has been admitted by the Kerala High Court.

Franco Mulakkal

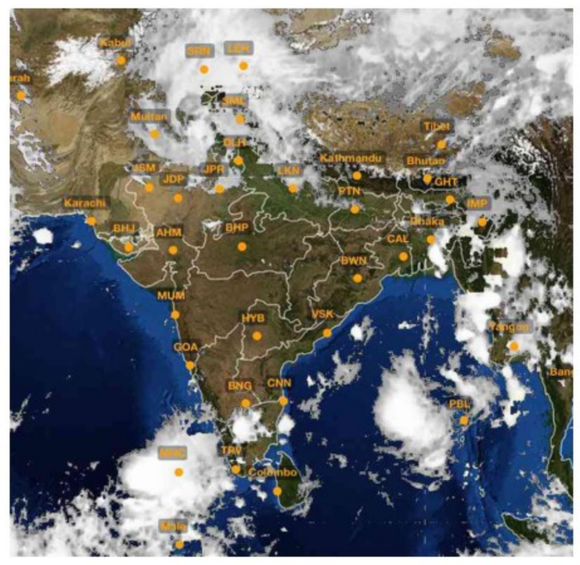
The communication said, however, "given the still divisive situation about the aforesaid matter in the Diocese of Jalandhar, resignation has been requested from bishop Mulakkal not as a disciplinary measure imposed upon him, but as a 'pro bono ecclesiae' (for the good of the church), especially for the good of the Diocese which needs a new bishop".

The Vatican Ambassador's letter went on to say that bishop Mulakkal is bishop Emeritus of Jalandhar, which does not imply canonical restrictions on his ministry.

In a video, the bishop thanked those who stood with him.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty winds very likely at isolated places over Jammu, Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Karnataka, Kerala; with lightning at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	38.1	26.8	Kozhikode	0.4	35.2	27.4
Ahmedabad	—	40.9	27.0	Kurnool	—	40.4	30.1
Aizawl	6.0	33.5	21.4	Lucknow	—	37.5	25.0
Allahabad	—	41.2	26.1	Madurai	2.0	38.0	25.0
Bengaluru	65.2	31.3	19.6	Mangaluru	—	35.3	27.0
Bhopal	—	40.7	24.0	Mumbai	—	34.8	27.4
Bhubaneswar	—	38.8	26.4	Mysuru	—	35.8	23.0
Chandigarh	17.0	29.7	20.0	New Delhi	—	32.4	19.4
Chennai	—	40.1	29.9	Patna	—	40.9	27.4
Coimbatore	—	35.4	25.6	Port Blair	3.0	32.7	25.5
Dehradun	9.0	31.6	17.2	Puducherry	—	39.2	28.7
Gangtok	4.0	25.2	17.7	Pune	—	40.9	23.8
Goa	—	30.0	25.0	Raipur	—	43.0	25.5
Guwahati	—	37.5	26.4	Ranchi	—	37.6	25.8
Hubballi				Shillong	—	28.0	17.8
Hyderabad	—	40.6	25.5	Shimla	40.0	20.2	9.6
Imphal	0.3	34.7	21.3	Srinagar	2.8	18.3	11.4
Jaipur	3.4	34.6	20.0	Thiruvananthapuram	5.0	32.5	25.2
Kochi	—	32.0	26.8	Tiruchi	—	38.7	26.6
Kohima	0.6	28.3	18.7	Vijayawada	—	40.2	28.2
Kolkata	—	38.6	28.9	Visakhapatnam	—	35.5	29.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	11	17	24	118	124	
Bengaluru	26	11	100	88	99	
Chennai	4	94	126	118	90	
Delhi	11	41	39	158	109	
Hyderabad	24	7	15	58	107	
Kolkata	12	29	22	56	71	
Lucknow	9	33	36	83	130	
Mumbai	—	9	127	22	66	
Pune	107	147	115	90	77	
Visakhapatnam	16	53	23	101	125	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Katihar, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 217 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 26

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Mutilated body of woman found

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The mutilated body of a woman was found in the Janatha colony near Bannerghatta on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Geetha, aged around 52, a resident of the colony.

Police found the decomposed body without a head in the morning. The local residents noticed foul smell, and later found the body of a woman lying in the compound of a house.

The Bannerghatta police rushed to the spot with the family members of Geetha, who identified the body. Police suspect that the assailants were known to her. The police said some neighbours had vacated the house and their phones were not reachable.

According to the police Geetha was working as housekeeping staff in an IT company and was living alone after her husband died. Her two daughters are married and living separately. The family has informed police that valuables in the house are intact. But the jewellery she wore were missing.

Lookout notice against Sailaja Kiron

The Hindu Bureau
GUNTUR

The Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department has issued a lookout notice againt Cherukuri Sailaja Kiron, MD of Margadarsi Chit Fund Pvt. Ltd., and blocked her international movement.

Weathering the storm

Inclement conditions: Heavy rain left many roads waterlogged at Ongole in Andhra Pradesh on Thursday. KOMMURI SRINIVAS

40 rescued in drive against child labour in Andhra Pradesh

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

50 teams raided manufacturing units, hotels and other establishments in the State, says Labour Commissioner

As many as 40 children, working in various establishments, were rescued during a drive against child labour and street children in Andhra Pradesh, on Thursday.

Following the directions of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), the Labour Department, in association with various government organisations and NGOs, launched the month-long drive.

Inspections

"The Deputy Commissioners of Labour (DCL), who are acting as nodal officers, carried out inspections along with Education, Medical and Health, Women Development and Child Welfare, Police and NGOs, Child Rights Advocacy Foundation (CRAF) and BBA across the State," said Labour Commissioner M.V. Seshagiri Babu.

About 50 teams, each comprising 10 persons, have been constituted to take up the drive. The officers visited the manufacturing units, aqua units, restaurants, mechanic sheds, shops, construction sites, mills, brick kilns and other units, he said.

CRAF, with the support of Kailash Satyarthi's Children's Foundation, has rescued seven children in Guntur district. District Revenue Officer Chandrashekar Rao flagged off the operation, said CRAF State programme director P. Francis Thambi. "The District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) and the Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) of various police stations participated in the raids," he said.

"The rescued children were produced before the Child Welfare Committees (CWC) for rehabilitation," said BBA State coordinator G. Tirupati Rao. "Some children were handed over to their parents after counselling," Mr. Seshagiri Babu told *The Hindu*.

1 bogie of Alappuzha-Kannur train catches fire, sabotage suspected

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

A bogie of the Alappuzha-Kannur Executive Express train parked at the Kannur railway station caught fire in the early hours of Thursday. The bogie was completely gutted. No one sustained injuries.

Three units of the Fire and Rescue Services were pressed into service. The fire was completely doused around 2.35 a.m. Other bogies were not affected.

The police indicated possible sabotage. The glass pane of the washroom was found broken and CCTV footage showed a person approaching the bogie with a can.

The Kannur police have taken a suspect into custody. The person has a history of engaging in anti-social activities. He had set fire near the railway station in the past and on Wednesday he was seen near the track. But the police have not yet confirmed if he set fire to the train.

The bogie of the Alappuzha-Kannur Executive Express that caught fire at the Kannur railway station on Thursday. S.K. MOHAN

On April 2, a 27-year-old from Delhi had sprayed petrol on passengers on the D1 coach of the same train and set fire when the train was between the Elathur and Koyilandi railway stations in Kozhikode.

Chandrayaan-3 reaches launch port at Sriharikota ahead of next month's launch

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft, after the final assembly of payloads at the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru, has reached the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

"Chandrayaan-3 has already reached the launch port, preparation is going on at Sriharikota and we do expect that sometime in July the launch can take place," said U.R. Satellite Centre Director M. Sankaran on Thursday about India's third moon mission.

Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface.

Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It can be recalled that the Chandrayaan-2's Lander crashed while attempting to make a landing on the moon surface in 2019.

Mr. Sankaran said that ISRO has looked into various aspects of what happened to Chandrayaan-2 and that all precautions have been taken to ensure that the upcoming mission is successful. "The mood at ISRO is both upbeat as well as apprehensive," he said.

He added that Chandrayaan-3 has been made more robust based on the experience of what happened at the time of landing for Chandrayaan-2.

Mr. Sankaran said that the post flight analysis of Chandrayaan-2 has given ISRO a lot of insight. "Every aspect of the mission has been strengthened and whatever is humanly possible has been done. During Chandrayaan-2 time also we were very hopeful that it would be successful but that is the nature of these missions. The gap between success and failure is so narrow and so thin," he added.

Intense mission

On India's first Human Space Flight programme Gaganyaan, Mr. Sankaran said that something important connected to the mission is expected to take place at the end of the year.

"Gaganyaan as you know is a very intense mission with a lot of new development and activities taking place. Many tests are happening for Gaganyaan which are not visible to the public and we do expect that there will be something which will be visible to people during this year," Mr. Sankaran said.

Wrestling for justice

The Wrestling Federation needs an overhaul in the wake of the allegations

Wrestlers demanding the arrest of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president and Bharatiya Janata Party Member of Parliament Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who has been accused of sexual harassment, continue to discuss their plans to keep their stir alive. The protest is no longer about the technicality of the investigations. There can be no two opinions on the platitude of the law taking its own course. The fact that an MP of the ruling party faces no political censure in the face of such serious allegations, including under POCSO, is disturbing for probity in public life, and sports administration. The Delhi Police maintain that the cases against Mr. Singh are under investigation and a status report will be submitted in the court. But the fact that the police force had to delete its own social media posts that made this benign claim raises questions about the fairness of its probe. On Tuesday, the stir by the wrestlers (they include international medal winners), took an emotional turn when they gathered in Haridwar to immerse their medals in the Ganga. They stepped back at the last moment, but are unwilling to give up their clamour for justice.

The protest has found support from civil society, and has been noticed by international sporting bodies, including the International Olympic Committee and the United World Wrestling that have condemned the police crackdown on the wrestlers, which happened on the day India inaugurated its new Parliament building. Jat farm leaders in Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) and Haryana have also come out in support of the wrestlers, resolving to strengthen the agitation. Meanwhile, Mr. Singh, far from facing condemnation by the ruling party, appears to enjoy the patronage of its leadership. The powerful MP from U.P.'s Kaiserganj is blaming the protesters and mobilising his supporters. Once accused in a TADA case, Mr. Singh appears to be too valuable in the BJP's scheme of things. There can be no case that anyone should be punished without due process which involves investigation and trial, but the question of probity must have a higher standard. The allegations against Mr. Singh are of a serious nature that diminish his capacity to be at the helm of a prestigious sporting body. While the criminal investigation must not be influenced by street protest, the message has to be clear to all, particularly the victims and the perpetrators, that there is zero tolerance of sexual harassment in India.

Riding momentum

Fiscal, monetary measures must remain growth supportive in coming quarters

The National Statistical Office's provisional estimates of national income for the 12 months ended March and quarterly GDP estimates for the fourth quarter posit a picture of an economy that sustained momentum last year despite headwinds. Gross domestic product is estimated to have expanded by 6.1% in the January-March quarter, helping lift full-year growth to a marginally higher-than-projected 7.2% pace. Gross value added numbers for the fourth quarter point to a broad-based uptick in growth from the preceding three months, with the umbrella utility services sector (including electricity, gas and water supply) and the omnibus services category of trade, hotels, transport, communication and broadcasting being the only two of the eight GVA sectors posting decelerations in expansion. While construction led the cross-sectoral growth, expanding 10.4%, collectively the services sectors buoyed GVA, with trade, hotels and transport still posting 9.1% growth, notwithstanding the slowdown from the third quarter's 9.6% pace. The sector, which has the largest share in GVA, expanded by a healthy 13.1% sequentially as travel demand rebounded in the wake of COVID-19 fears receding. Manufacturing was also a silver lining, rebounding from the December quarter's contraction to log a 4.5% expansion. And sequentially, manufacturing GVA surged 20.4% from the third quarter reflecting the sustained expansions reported in recent months by S&P Global's survey-based purchasing managers' index.

In fact, the latest PMI reading, showing factory orders having risen in May at the fastest pace since January 2021, is a welcome augury and a buffer for an economy facing stronger headwinds this year from a global economic slowdown and increased uncertainty, including heightened financial sector risks. The NSO data also point to gross fixed capital formation, a proxy for investment activity, having regained vigour in the fourth quarter. GFCF expanded by a healthy 8.9% year-on-year, and an even more robust 20.8% sequentially, aided in large measure by the government's increased capital spending on infrastructure and other big-ticket public works. Given its overall multiplier effect and job creation potential, the improvement in investment spending bodes well for this year's outlook. To be sure, the same GDP data also underscores the fact that private consumption spending – a key bulwark of demand – is yet to regain a firm footing. Private consumption expenditure is estimated to have actually contracted 3.2% from the preceding period in the March quarter, with its share of GDP shrinking to at least an eight-quarter low of 55%. With the chance of a potentially rainfall deficit-inducing El Niño almost a certainty, the outlook for farm output and related rural spending is also now under a cloud. Policymakers must therefore ensure that fiscal and monetary measures remain growth supportive in the coming quarters.

At the root of India's manufacturing challenge

Pulapre Balakrishnan

is an economist

The issue of manufacturing or services as the desirable path for India's economy makes the rounds in public fora periodically. In the early part of this century, when India's software exports were booming, it had been asked why India's services sector should not leapfrog over manufacturing to propel the economy forward. This proposal challenged the standard model of economic development, for, in most successful economies, industrial expansion had come first. The frustration of the Indian economic policy maker can be well understood.

The economic reforms of 1991 had almost exclusively focused on manufacturing, but the significant scaling down of tariffs and the dismantling of the 'licence-permit Raj' did not lead to an increase in the share of manufacturing in the economy. Of course, India's manufacturing sector ought not to be seen only in terms of its size. There has been a qualitative change after 1991. The range and quality of products manufactured in India have undergone an impressive increase. The rising quality and variety of the goods produced, without the expansion of manufacturing in relation to the economy, suggests a rising inequality of income.

Unimpressive record

After the economic reforms of 1991, the next time manufacturing came into the government's view was after 2014, when 'Make in India', with its emphasis on foreign direct investment, was launched. More recently, there has been the Production-Linked Incentive scheme, which essentially subsidises production of certain products. Though announced with fanfare, the first within months of the Narendra Modi government assuming office, the record of these schemes has not been impressive.

The first advance estimates of the national income for 2022-23 show manufacturing growth to be 1.3% for the year, less than that for agriculture and all main segments of services. While the data unambiguously point to the role of the demonetisation of 2016 in the slowing of the manufacturing sector, the persistence of low rates of growth in the presence of policy initiatives that were focused on manufacturing point to something 'structural' holding back the sector in India.

This issue reportedly came up for discussion at a private event, where it was agreed that the economy needs a manufacturing push for the creation of jobs and to raise the growth rate. We are told that during the ceremony, the Finance Minister addressed the corporate leaders gathered with the remark, "I am sure the Indian private sector is ready. Are you?" Even on earlier occasions, the Minister has publicly referred to the many policy initiatives favouring the corporate sector. Among them, the tax rate had been lowered substantially in 2019 and the government also claims to have improved the ease of doing business. There is also another factor, namely, public investment. In the last Union Budget, capital expenditure was raised by 18.5%. This unusually high increase should come to the aid of the private sector by raising aggregate demand.

> When the trade and industrial policy regime was overhauled in 1991, the need for an ecosystem for manufacturing, including schooling, training and infrastructure, was overlooked

The price of food

Despite the favourable measures undertaken by the government, it would be simplistic to expect industry leaders to achieve a manufacturing push on their own. There is demand to be reckoned with, and this is largely independent of the supply side, which the government has acted upon. Household demand for manufactures inevitably follows the satisfaction of its demand for the necessities of life – food, housing, health and education, none of which can be postponed. For a substantial section of India's households, food occupies a large share. This constricts the growth of demand for manufactures.

The relationship between per capita income and the share of food in household expenditure is strongly negative globally, with the richest countries, such as the United States and Singapore, having low such shares. Of the large economies of the world, the share of food is the largest in India, and its GDP per capita the lowest. Industry leaders have no control over the demand side of the equation. However, the possibility of exporting means that the manufacturing sector of an economy can sidestep a narrow domestic market. After all, the smaller countries of East Asia would never have been able to grow their manufacturing base to such an impressive level had they relied on their domestic markets alone. Taking this route, however, does require that an economy's manufactures are globally competitive.

In a comparison with the economies of East Asia, we can see what is necessary for an economy to be a successful exporter. One is infrastructure and the other is the skill level of the workforce. These determine the cost of production and the type of products that a country can produce, respectively. The export of manufactures is largely by sea. The challenge of reaching the seaports faced by companies located in north India can be imagined. Goods have to first reach the coast by road, and then exporters must deal with the relatively poor infrastructure and practices in India's ports. The competitive disadvantage faced by India's exporters can be seen in the much higher turnaround time for ships in India's ports with that in Singapore. The importance of ports for exports may be seen in a public statement recently issued by a section of Kerala's traders: that they are forced to use ports outside the State as they cost much less to use. While transportation is a big factor, it is not everything yet. Inexpensive power, space and industrial waste disposal services all matter.

Educational outcomes in India

But it is with respect to education that India has fallen most behind the countries that are the manufacturing successes of the world. The ranking of countries by the Programme for International Student Assessment reveals this directly. In a group of about 75 countries, the countries of East Asia are at the very top while India barely manages not to be the last. Now, if we do not wish to rely on tests administered by international bodies, we may turn to our very own non-governmental organisation Pratham, which assesses learning outcomes in India's schools. Its widely publicised findings point to the very low reading ability and numeracy of Indian children in their early years. These tests are for schoolchildren.

While there is no standardised test for university graduates, we have leading Indian employers issue statements on the lack of employability of these graduates. This dismal assessment has extended even to an Indian Institute of Technology. India's universities expanded to serve the aspiration of its middle class who wish to avoid manual work. However, for those headed for a life as a skilled worker, ranging from carpenters to plumbers and mechanics, university is not an aspiration at all. This cohort has been neglected in economic policy-making in India. There is no formal assessment available of the state of the vocational training institutes in India, but we certainly know that they are few and far between. When it existed, the Planning Commission had released data showing that only about 5% of Indian youth have had any kind of technical training. The figure for South Korea was over 85%. It would be naïve to expect India to make a mark on the global stage for manufacturing with such a labour force.

The economic reforms of 1991 were undertaken with a view to raising the presence of manufacturing. To this effect, the trade and industrial policy regime had been overhauled. However, it overlooked the need for an entire ecosystem, including schooling, training and infrastructure for manufacturing to flourish. This has to be built. It cannot be achieved merely through legislation. Liberalising reforms have run their course in India.

Central Asian foreign policy multi-vectorism pays off

Tatiana Belousova

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Between May 18 and 19, China hosted what was called the "C+C5 summit", in the city of Xi'an (the first of its kind), which saw the participation of the leaders of five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan). The six countries then jointly signed the 'Xi'an Declaration' and issued a blueprint for the future development of China-Central Asia relations. In their discussions, the six countries focused on the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road cooperation to be a 'new starting point'. In focus also were people-to-people exchanges, a 'Cultural Silk Road' programme, and issues of regional terrorism and extremism.

Importantly, the China-Central Asia Summit mechanism was officially inaugurated, which paves the way for future biennial summits between these countries. The next summit will be held in Kazakhstan in 2025.

Some may view this summit as testament to an ever-expanding Chinese influence in the region, which poses a challenge to Russia's ambitions. Despite being a valid argument, it only partly reflects regional complexities and shifting dynamics. In 2022, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace said that in the same year, Russian President Vladimir Putin had held more than 50 meetings (both online and in person) with Central Asian leaders. The fact that all five Central Asian Presidents visited Moscow for the May 9 Victory Day parade indicates that these former Soviet republics intend to maintain balanced regional and international engagements.

A successful implementation

To their credit, the Central Asian countries have been able to successfully implement a multi-vectored foreign policy that stretches beyond the Russia-China axis. In the context of the post-Soviet states, this policy has been traditionally associated with their sovereignty *vis-à-vis* Russia, since it implies stronger economic and political ties with other centres of power.

> To their credit, the Central Asian countries have been able to follow a multi-vectored foreign policy that stretches beyond the Russia-China axis

Notably, in October last year, the European Council President Charles Michel visited Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, 'sending a strong political signal of the EU's commitment to the region and of the EU's wish to strengthen ties and bolster interregional cooperation'. In the same month, Mr. Michel also attended the first high-level meeting with the Central Asian leaders, that was held in Astana.

The basic parameter of Turkmenistan's foreign policy since its independence in 1991 has been the country's official status of 'neutrality'. After succeeding his father in 2022, Turkmenistan's new President, Serdar Berdimuhamedov, issued a statement, saying his country 'will continue the policy of neutrality based on good neighbourliness, equality and mutually beneficial cooperation with all the countries of the world'.

In the case of Uzbekistan, the main priority of its foreign policy is regional security in Central Asia, which includes the precarious environment in Afghanistan. Other priority directions cover relations with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) member-states, Russia, China, the United States, the European Union (EU), Turkey, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, and Vietnam.

Economic and security concerns have been the decisive factor in formulating the foreign policy strategies of Kyrgyzstan in the post-independence era. After his election in 2021, Sadyr Japarov chose Russia for his first official visit as a new Kyrgyz President, an indication that Russia remains the main security partner for Bishkek, which hosts Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) troops at the Kant military airbase. In terms of multilateral engagement, Kyrgyzstan is a member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, CSTO, and the Organization of Turkic States.

The foreign policy of Tajikistan is 'open doors' and a peace-seeking policy, indicating the 'country's readiness to build friendly relations with all countries and recognize shared interests based on reciprocal respect and equality'.

Lessons for broader post-Soviet space

The brief overview of the foreign policy trajectories in Central Asia highlights their common characteristics, i.e., multi-vectorism. This pragmatic approach certainly pays off, as it provides the benefits of maintaining friendly ties with multiple players, including Russia.

In this sense, the Central Asian republics could serve as a relevant example for other post-Soviet countries, e.g., Georgia and Moldova. Their long-term aspirations for EU/North Atlantic Treaty Organization membership should not be fulfilled at the expense of workable relations with Russia. If anything, this prospective membership would hardly guarantee absolute security due to the spread of unconventional warfare, which is more difficult to detect and counter.

On May 21, tens of thousands of Moldovans rallied in the capital Chisinau to support the pro-western government policy. Moldova intends joining the EU by 2030 – which its President, Maia Sandu, describes as 'the chance for our people to live in peace and prosperity.'

Regardless of this 'pivot to West', 'belligerent' Russia will geographically remain where it is. Though Georgia and Moldova have legitimate reasons not to trust their neighbour, a multi-vectored foreign policy should be viewed as the only optimum solution for a lasting peace in the region. Anything short of this would perpetuate an unstable environment, with the constant threat of escalation and a greater sense of insecurity.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The *Sengol* episode

The ruling party in power at the Centre seems to have found a stick, in the shape of the *Sengol*, to beat the Congress with, politically. The concept of the *Sengol* is incompatible with the concept of a democratic form of government as it represents a system of monarchy or even autocracy. A political twist has been given to the *Sengol* episode (Inside pages, "Govt. claims of *Sengol* signifying transfer of power are manufactured lies: N. Ram", June 1). Who knows; a succeeding government, in case there is a different political composition, may even decide that the rightful place for the *Sengol* may be elsewhere, and not inside the House.

V.N. Gopal,
Chennai

Speeches made abroad

It has almost become a 'habit' for Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to describe our country's leader and happenings in the nation in a manner that evokes much disappointment.

I am sure that speeches and opinions can still be presented in a strong yet dignified manner. What political advantage does Mr. Gandhi think can be had by this? Is he not tarnishing his own image?

Jayakumar A.V.,
Thrikkakara, Kochi, Kerala

'Problem' animals

The story of Kerala's elephant rice king, 'Arikompan', continues to dominate the headlines. The main issue that can be understood from the story is this: a shortage of food and free roaming habitats. Forest Departments need to ensure that there are adequate grasslands that can serve as ideal habitats for wild elephants. With man-animal conflicts on the rise in India, this issue needs to be looked into. Translocation should also mean transferring the animal to a far-off place, and not close to where it was found roaming.

Q. Ashoka Chakkaravarthy,
Chittur, Palakkad, Kerala

Corrections & Clarifications

In the report titled "India sees reduction in stunting" (May 29, 2023), the third paragraph erroneously said the number of stunting cases dropped from 52 lakh to 36 lakh. It should have been 5.25 crore to 3.6 crore.

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Is there a clear north-south divide in Indian politics?

K.K. Kailash

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Sudha Pai

is a political scientist and former Professor, JNU

PARLEY

After its loss in the recent Assembly elections in Karnataka, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is left with no State government in south India. The governments of the five States of the south are led by different parties – the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam in Tamil Nadu, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in Kerala, the YSR Congress Party in Andhra Pradesh, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi in Telangana, and the Congress in Karnataka. This is not a new trend; the south has rarely followed the electoral trend set by the north. In the 1977 Lok Sabha elections, while the Congress was emphatically defeated in the Hindi heartland, it continued to hold onto its seats in the south. Similarly, in the last nine years, even at the peak of its popularity, the BJP has been unable to breach the southern fortress as convincingly as it would like to. In a discussion moderated by **Sobhana K. Nair**, Sudha Pai and K. K. Kailash discuss whether there is a clear north-south divide in politics. Edited excerpts:

What makes southern India vote differently from the north?

K.K. Kailash: The differences between the south and the north are attributed to the historical, social and economic differences between the two regions. While these elements are important and explain much, I think we often miss out on the political dimension. The language of politics in south and north India are distinct; the issues, the concerns, and even their articulation is different. And there is a degree of commonality between different southern States, which began during the period of Congress dominance. The Congress was seen as the "other." This gave birth to regional parties on the premise that the Congress was not representing the specific interests of the State. They also argued that they were better protectors of regional identity, which the Congress did not care about. This regional assertion has become entrenched over the years. In the south, there are calls routinely made urging the Union government to concede more subjects to the State List of the Constitution. Protests against the Centre's encroachment on the State government's powers are also common. You cannot use this language [in the north] because of the relative homogeneity of the region in terms of language, culture, history, etc. And it does not allow for them to make a call for being different or manufacture this difference.

Sudha Pai: I agree with what Professor Kailash said about the difference in political language. But underlying that are certain historical differences, which we can neither ignore nor over emphasise. The economic, social and political changes in the south and the north should also be taken into account. There are marked differences between the north and south in terms of the emergence and impact of social movements. Assertion by both the Backward Classes and the Scheduled Castes was late in north India compared to the south. The south experienced social movements during the colonial period around the caste question. The Veerashaiva movement of north Karnataka professed an anti-Brahmin, anti-ritualistic ethics and provided a counterculture to orthodox Brahminical Hinduism. So did the anti-Brahmin movement [in Tamil Nadu] and other movements across the south challenging the caste order. In contrast, in north India, there were no anti-Brahminical movements. The Dalit movements were late to start in the Hindi heartland and were scattered. The impact of B.R. Ambedkar was also late. In the United Provinces (present day-Uttar Pradesh), the Scheduled Caste movement started somewhere around the 1940s, but it disappeared soon after Independence. The Republican Party of India was strong in the 1960s, but its presence faded because of the dominance of the Congress.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in Bengaluru. ANI

KK: The primary distinction is that in the south, we had movements first and then electoral politics, whereas in the north, it was primarily only electoral politics. In the south, the groups which led the movements have to be courted and accommodated within the mainstream political parties. In contrast, in the north, in the absence of movements, political parties often have taken up issues and concerns. As a result, you have caste groups tied to particular political parties. This makes it difficult for these groups to negotiate with the other political parties.

> The primary distinction is that in the south, we had social movements first and then electoral politics, whereas in the north, it was primarily only electoral politics.
> K.K. KAILASH

How much does the disparity in economic growth between the north and the south influence their politics?

KK: Until the 1960s, there was little difference between the two regions. Both were almost at similar levels of economic growth, if you were to compare the basic indices such as per capita income. It was in the 1980s that the transformation took place between the two regions, and they began to diverge. And this difference had to do with the politics of the two regions, which dictated economic strategies. While the south focused on long-term poverty alleviation steps and investing in health and education, the north employed relatively short-term wealth redistributive strategies.

SP: I think the economic difference between the two regions goes further back in history. It began in the colonial period when south India underwent considerable economic transformation. The princely states of Mysore and Travancore heavily invested in education and supported progressive movements. There were British investments in the Madras and Bombay Presidency in terms of ports, railways, railway lines, schools, and other industries. Employment came in the way of recruitment into the Army. By the time the British spread into the Hindi heartland, the golden age of colonialism was somewhat over. By the time Oudh was conquered, it was 1856. After the First World War, Britain was a declining power with the rise of the U.S. And there was less investment in Uttar Pradesh. Consequently, the south did have something of an early start.

Does religion carry the same political currency in the north and south?

SP: One of the primary differences between the two regions is in terms of Brahminical Hinduism. While in the Hindi heartland, it is still the dominant form, in the south, it doesn't play a similar role, thanks to the various movements against the caste order and the cultural structures in these regions. This changes the way religion is perceived in the south versus the north and also, in a way, draws a geographical boundary for the Hindutva narrative.

KK: There is one additional difference between the two regions – Partition. The Hindu-Muslim cleavage, which political scientist Ashutosh Varshney calls the "master narrative," has much to do with Partition and the riots that followed. The impact of Partition was vastly different on the two regions and has had a long-term effect on the north.

Do you see this north-south divide narrowing or deepening?

KK: I do not see this gap closing anytime soon. In the 1990s, there were green shoots of growth in the north, both economically and socially. But three decades on, there hasn't been any significant leap. At the same time, we need to consider one factor – the age pyramid. The southern States have an older population compared to the northern ones. In the last few years, we have seen economic migration from the north to the south. If they (workers) happen to settle there, there could be a change of profile in the long run. But in the short run, I don't see the gap narrowing. And as far as the cultural dimension is concerned, no change can be expected in our lifetime. The two will continue to maintain their unique cultural structures.

SP: The north-south divide in economic terms is worsening. In the 1980s, there was a certain hope that the north would improve and the growth rates would go up. In the late 1980s, predictions were made about Uttar Pradesh, that "the sleeping giant was awakening" and for the first time the industrial and agricultural output of the State was crossing the national average. But then politics intervened. This period of economic growth coincided with the period of identity politics brought in by the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party. This was an era of competitive populism. And short-term governments contributed very little to long-term policies. The situation worsened to such an extent that Uttar Pradesh had to be rescued by the World Bank in the early 1990s.

The north-south divide is also worsening politically, due to attempts to impose Hindi on the south and with the presence of strong lower caste movements which view the BJP as an upper caste party. So, cultural differences will persist between the north and the south.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Chennai's most famous adopted son will live on for eternity

The man singularly responsible for the passionate support base that Chennai Super Kings enjoys is M.S. Dhoni

N. Sudarshan

The Indian Premier League (IPL), by design, doesn't quite lend itself to European football-like sports fandom. Allegiances are mostly fluid and the emotional connect with a team, even after 16 long years of the tournament, still lacks intensity. This is perhaps because the show is largely controlled by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which believes that periodic auctions that lead to the chopping and changing of outfits are essential to maintain competitive balance.

Few venues have designated home and away stands, and fan songs, if any, are still in the realm of imagination. The locations for the marquee play-off matches are decided even before the teams qualify, further reducing the chances of a partisan crowd-building. In fact, after each contest, the most marketed images are those of rival players sharing a good laugh. The overall desire is thus to sell a high-quality entertainment package every evening, and nothing more.

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and its ultra-passionate support base militate against this idea. If galleries at the iconic Chepauk stadium resemble a sea of yellow, games at neutral venues are not without CSK oases. In Bengaluru, one of India's most cosmopolitan cities, it can be safely said that CSK has as many fans as Royal Challengers Bangalore. People have internalised this to such an extent that journalists in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad, the two venues where I have covered matches, invariably conclude that CSK fans have outnumbered the locals.

The man who is singularly responsible for such mania is M.S. Dhoni. Ever since the franchise broke the bank at the inaugural 2008 auction to sign him for a then record $1.5 million, Dhoni has occupied the highest position in the CSK totem pole. It doesn't matter that he is from Ranchi and can speak, at best, a smattering of Tamil. In a region where the sub-nationalist identity, shaped by language, is quite strong, the affection for Dhoni is organic. I have seen many who genuinely believe that Dhoni will be elected unopposed if ever he contests a parliamentary election in Chennai.

This bond was most recently reflected in the way supporters thronged the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad for the IPL final against Gujarat Titans. There is a good chance there were more Tamilians per square metre in Ahmedabad than anywhere outside Tamil Nadu that weekend. The skyrocketing Chennai-Ahmedabad flight ticket fares didn't prove a dampener, for a few fans I spoke to had flown to Vadodara and then journeyed to watch the match by road. Even when the tie slipped into the reserve day because of torrential rains, most of them stayed back, spending thousands to reschedule their flights and hotel bookings. The reward was watching their *Thala* (leader) lift his fifth IPL trophy as captain.

Anticipation was also heightened before every match that Dhoni played because there was fear that the legend, soon to be 42, will hang up his boots. This is after all a man who announced his retirement from limited-overs international cricket on Instagram. In what novel way will he draw the curtains now? Back then, CSK's *Chinna Thala* (deputy) Suresh Raina followed suit, also retiring on Instagram within minutes of Dhoni. Who was he going to drag along now?

But the manner in which Dhoni indulged his fans, by promising that he would try and come back next season, showcased the high point of the mutual love. "I think it started over here [Ahmedabad] when I was playing the first game [of IPL 2023]," he said, after the title win on Tuesday. "I just walked out and the full house was chanting my name. My eyes filled with [tears]. It was the same thing in Chennai. It will be good to come back and play." Retired or not, Chennai's most famous adopted son will live on for eternity.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

When the skies put up a dramatic show

After a hot summer, premonsoon clouds gather in the sky over Manjapara, near Sulthan Bathery, in Wayanad district of Kerala. The monsoon is forecast to reach Kerala by June 4. The India Meteorological Department said that this monsoon is likely to see rainfall levels at the lowest end of what is considered 'normal' due to a likely El Nino phenomenon and despite a positive Indian Ocean dipole. Thulasi Kakkat

FROM THE ARCHIVES — The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 2, 1973

Enquiry ordered into Boeing crash in Delhi

New Delhi, June 1: The Government of India has constituted a court of enquiry presided over by Mr. Justice Rajinder Sachar of the Delhi High Court to go into the circumstances leading to the crash here last night of the Indian Airlines Boeing aircraft coming from Madras resulting in the death of 48 passengers, including Mr. S. Mohan Kumaramangalam, Union Minister for Steel and Mines.

Mr. Justice Sachar, who has been asked to submit his report by June 30, will be assisted by two assessors, Group Capt. A.D. Ralli of the Indian Air Force and Mr. D. Bose, Operations Manager, Air India.

The Director-General of Civil Aviation, Mr. S. Ramamritham, said that there was no need to make any guess about the causes of the crash, since both the Commander of the flight, Capt. G.P.B. Nair and the Co-pilot, Capt.B.N. Reddy, were alive and it should be possible to ascertain correctly what had happened to the ill-fated air craft.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 2, 1923

Kenya question

London, June 1: Reuter learns that although it is impossible to record much progress as the result of conferences hitherto held in London regarding the status of Indians in Kenya, the fact is that ground is being cleared as the result of private conversations. The next development will be resumption of direct conferences probably in the course of the next week. It is not true that it has been decided to refer the question to the Imperial Conference. The desire is to clear the ground before then.

From Page One

Judicial panel to probe Manipur violence: Shah

The Kuki groups, on their part, have accused Meitei radical groups such as the Aarambai Tenggol and the Meitei Leepun of looting arms from police armouries to attack tribal communities.

As many as 1,420 weapons have been looted from police camps since May 3. The Home Minister called for all of them to be surrendered to the police. "I want to appeal to those who have the weapons to surrender them immediately. Police will start combing operation from tomorrow; they should come forward and surrender the weapons to the police. If they fail to do so, strict action will follow. We know the people who possess the weapons," Mr. Shah said. Asked how the police allowed the arms to be taken in the first place, the Minister said, "Many arms have been recovered, [but] when a mob comes, police hesitate to fire at them."

Appealing for peace from "either or side" and cautioning people not to fall for rumours, Mr. Shah said that a peace committee comprising eminent personalities and civil society groups would be set up under the chairmanship of Governor Anusuya Uike.

'HC's hasty verdict to blame'

Mr. Shah said that the peace established in Manipur over the past six years had been disrupted in May due to a court judgment, adding that "there has been some misunderstandings" since then. "I can say without any hesitation that on account of a hasty decision of the Manipur High Court, a situation of ethnic violence between two groups erupted," Mr. Shah said.

On March 27, the Manipur High Court had directed the State government to submit a recommendation for inclusion of Meiteis in the Scheduled Tribe list, preferably within four weeks. This was opposed by Manipur's existing 34 Scheduled Tribes, which comprise 41% of the State's population and predominantly live in the hill districts. A tribal solidarity rally was organised in Churachandpur and other areas on May 3, following which violence erupted. Many parts of the State remain under curfew.

With some sections blaming the violence on illegal migrants from Myanmar, Mr. Shah said that fencing has been completed on a 10 km stretch along the Manipur-Myanmar border.

"The biometrics – iris scan and thumb impression – of people coming from across the border are being recorded," Mr. Shah said, adding that, "For a permanent solution, the Manipur and Myanmar border will be sealed." India and Myanmar currently share a free movement border regime.

The Home Minister announced that helicopter services would be started for the hill areas at a cost of ₹2,000 per person. They can be used as transportation to airports or for travel within the State

"To deal with any possible food crisis 30,000 tonnes of rice have been allocated by the Government of India," the Minister said. Special medical teams have arrived in Manipur, and will be based at Moreh, Kangkokpi and Churachandpur, he added.

GST collections cross ₹1.5 lakh cr. for fifth time

An ongoing drive against indirect tax evasion, as well as higher consumption spending through the withdrawn ₹2,000 currency notes which will remain legal tender till at least September 30, could still bump up collections.

The 12% growth in revenues from goods imports marks a turnaround from a three-month streak of slowing growth capped by a 4.5% contraction in April, and could indicate a recovery in discretionary domestic demand.

Revenues from goods imports were up 29% between April 2022 and January 2023, while taxes from domestic transactions and services imports were up 22%. However, February and March had only recorded a 6% and 8% uptick in taxes on goods imports.

GST compensation cess collections, which had also hit a record high of ₹12,025 crore in April, remained robust at ₹11,489 crore in May, and included a little over ₹1,000 crore from goods imports.

"While the collections in absolute terms are lower than the previous month – which had an embedded year-end [compliance-led] impact, it reflects a continuation of the inherently good economic performance across States witnessed since last year," said M.S. Mani, partner at Deloitte India. Overall domestic revenues grew 11% in May and 16 States recorded higher revenue growth, led by Mizoram (52%), Arunachal Pradesh (47%), Delhi (25%) and Meghalaya and Madhya Pradesh, whose revenues rose 23%. Revenues grew 11% in Odisha, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh, 12% in Karnataka and 13% in Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

Revenues contracted sharply in strife-torn Manipur, dropping 17% year-on-year, while Chhattisgarh also reported a 4% decline in revenues. Eight States recorded slower revenue growth than the national average, including Rajasthan (up 4%) and Gujarat, Punjab, West Bengal and Jharkhand, each of whom saw a 5% rise in GST inflows in May.

"The total revenue of Centre and the States in the month of May 2023 after regular settlement is ₹63,780 crore for Central GST (CGST) and ₹65,597 crore for the State GST (SGST)," the Finance Ministry said in a statement. The government has settled ₹35,369 crore towards CGST and ₹29,769 crore to SGST from the Integrated GST (IGST) collections of the month, which amounted to ₹81,363 crore. A little over 51% of the month's IGST collections came from taxes on imports of goods.

India, Nepal sign pacts on energy, transport

India to import 10,000 MW of electricity from Nepal, says Modi, who highlights the close cultural link between the two countries; he calls for fast-tracking projects related to the Ramayana circuit

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The border between India and Nepal should not become a barrier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday as the two sides signed a series of agreements on energy and transport, including export of Nepal's hydropower to Bangladesh through Indian territory.

Welcoming Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', who is on a four-day visit to India, Mr. Modi said the two countries should fast-track projects related to the Ramayana circuit.

"I remember that nine years ago, in 2014, within three months of taking charge of office, I made my first visit to Nepal. I said at the time that we will establish ties between India and Nepal that would overcome the presence of borders. Today we signed the Transit Agreement. It will help Nepal's population access India's inland waterways," he said.

Mr. Modi said India would take forward the 2022 India-Nepal vision document for cooperation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Nepal counterpart, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, in New Delhi on Thursday. R.V. MOORTHY

in the power sector that sets an ambitious goal in India-Nepal power trade and transmission. "Taking this forward, a long-term Power Trade Agreement has been signed between India and Nepal today. Under this agreement, we have set a target of importing 10,000 MW of electricity from Nepal in the coming years," Mr. Modi said. Focusing on energy cooperation, Mr. Modi said that a "new pipeline will be constructed from Siliguri to Jhapa in eastern Nepal".

The two sides signed a number of agreements, including an MoU between NHPC and VUCL (Vidyut Utpadan Company Ltd.) of Nepal, for the development of Phukot Karnali Hydroelectric Project and a Project Development Agreement for Lower Arun Hydroelectric Project between SJVN (India) and Investment Board of Nepal. Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said the two PMs agreed to "achieve tangible and time-bound progress on the Pancheshwar multipurpose project".

The two Prime Ministers participated through a video link in the ground breaking ceremony of the Gorakhpur-Bhutwal Transmission Line – on the Indian side. Mr. Kwatra announced that the two countries signed the revised Treaty of Transit under which Nepal will get to access to India's inland waterways. He described it as a "once in a generation" pact.

"I appreciate India's willingness to facilitate export of hydropower from Nepal to Bangladesh through India. We have agreed that the transmission of up to 50 megawatts of power will commence soon," said Mr. Dahal. The two Prime Ministers jointly inaugurated a cargo train from Bathnaha in India to Nepal Customs Yard. The rail link was built with an Indian grant. They also inaugurated integrated checkposts (ICPs) at Nepalgunj in Nepal and Rupaidiha on the Indian side. They participated in the ground breaking ceremony of ICPs at Bhairahawa and Sonauli as well as Phase-II facilities as part of the Motihari-Amlekhgunj Petroleum Pipeline.

Prime Minister Dahal will proceed to Ujjain on Friday where he will visit the Mahakaleshwar temple. Mr. Modi highlighted India's cultural links with Nepal and said, "The religious and cultural ties between India and Nepal are very old and very strong."

Mural of Akhand Bharat in Parliament stirs up row in Nepal

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The mural shows Lumbini, the birth place of Gautama Buddha, indicating India's claims over the region

A major controversy has broken out in Nepal over a mural depicting the Indian subcontinental landmass in the newly inaugurated Parliament building.

The mural has been interpreted as a map of Akhand Bharat or undivided India, which has drawn angry responses from Nepali political leaders across party lines.

The mural shows Lumbini, the birth place of Gautama Buddha, indicating India's claims over the region. Nepal considers Lumbini as one of the major cultural centres on the Nepalese map.

'Trust deficit'

"The controversial mural of Akhand Bharat in the recently inaugurated new Parliament building of India may stoke unnecessary and harmful diplomatic row in the neighbourhood including Nepal. It has the potential of further aggravating the trust deficit already vitiating the bilateral relations between most of the immediate neighbours of India," former Nepali Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai said in a statement.

The mural drew attention on May 28 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Parliament building and dedicated it to the nation.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi was among the first to describe the mural as "Akhand Bharat".

The issue erupted in the Nepalese media even as Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal started his India tour and held official talks with Mr. Modi on Thursday.

Map controversies

The issue has once again triggered memories of the Kalapani dispute, which erupted in November 2019 when India published a political map showing the Kalapani region as part of Uttarakhand.

Nepal, in response, published a map asserting its control over Kalapani.

Mr. Modi and Mr. Dahal, however, said on Thursday that the dispute would be resolved in a spirit of friendship and through the established diplomatic mechanisms.

Not seeking international support in our fight against the BJP, says Rahul in U.S.

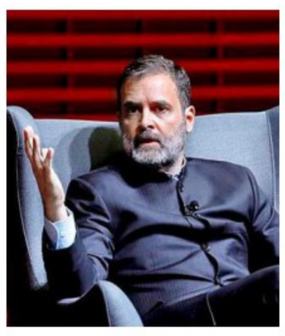
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Stating that he never imagined he could be disqualified from the Lok Sabha, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday asserted that he was not looking for international support for his fight against the BJP.

Speaking at an interactive session at Stanford University, Mr. Gandhi said it was his right to build a relationship with the group of Indian students and wondered why Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not do the same and "answer some tough questions".

In March, the BJP had accused Mr. Gandhi of seeking "international support" after the Congress leader, at an event in London, said that "a chunk of democracy in India had come undone".

At another event with Silicon Valley-based start-up entrepreneurs, Mr. Gandhi held discussions with the experts on various topics such as AI, big data, machine learning and their



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi interacting with students at Stanford University.

implications on governance, social welfare measures and also disinformation and misinformation.

Talking about the use of Pegasus spyware, the Congress leader said he was not worried about his phone being tapped and joked by saying "Hello! Mr Modi" on his iPhone.

At Stanford University, Mr. Gandhi delivered a lecture on 'The New Global Equilibrium' and later had an interactive session with the audience.

On a question about the Opposition parties seeking international support in their fight against the ruling BJP, Mr. Gandhi said, "No! I am not seeking support from anyone. I am very clear that our fight is our fight and BJP likes to twist with that, it's not. I am not seeking support from anyone, but there is a group of young students from India here, and I want to have relationship with them. It is my right to do it."

When Mr. Gandhi wondered why Prime Minister Modi doesn't come here and answer some hard questions, the moderator said that the Prime Minister was always welcome to visit Stanford.

While the Congress leader said he agreed with the Government of India's neutral stance on the war between Russia and Ukraine, he noted that China-India relations had hit a rough patch. "It's tough right now. I mean, they [China] have occupied some of our territory. It's rough. It's not too easy [a relationship]. India cannot be pushed around. That is something that is not going to happen," he said.

Congress says SEBI should retrospectively tighten FPI disclosure

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) should ensure complete disclosure of ownership of foreign portfolio investors (FPI) with retrospective effect, the Congress said on Thursday as it reiterated its stance that only a probe by a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) can ascertain who "diluted and deleted" this rule that benefited the Adani Group.

The Congress statement came a day after capital markets regulator SEBI proposed mandating additional disclosure around ownership of high-risk FPIs to enhance trust in the Indian securities markets. On Wednesday, SEBI came out with a proposal mandating enhanced disclosures from high-risk FPIs.

Addressing a press conference, Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh alleged that the market regulator was now proposing to tighten the rule it was "forced to dilute" in December 2018 and was deleted in August 2019 that helped the Adani Group.

Jairam Ramesh

Mr. Ramesh said all like-minded Opposition parties would raise the demand in the upcoming Monsoon session of Parliament.

"The purpose is to hold a proper investigation in the Modani scam. A JPC can bring out the truth in this regard. When we sit in the new Parliament building, we will raise this demand again," he told reporters.

The party also launched a booklet related to the 100 questions that the party has asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi since February on the Adani issue.

Jaishankar calls for UNSC reforms at BRICS meet

Press Trust of India
CAPE TOWN

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday called on the BRICS nations to demonstrate their sincerity in reforming multilateral institutions, including that of the UN Security Council.

"For two decades, we have heard calls for reform of multilateral institutions, only to be continuously disappointed. It is, therefore, imperative that BRICS members demonstrate sincerity in regard to reforming global decision-making, including that of the UN Security Council," he said in his opening remarks at the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting here.

Mr. Jaishankar said that at the heart of the problems the countries face is the economic concentration that leaves too many nations at the mercy of too few.

"We urge that BRICS give it particular consideration and promote the economic decentralisation that is so essential to political democratisation," Mr. Jaishankar said.

India-Russia joint venture on Vande Bharat trains hits hurdle

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

The joint venture (JV) between Russian transportation giant Transmashholding (TMH) and Indian public sector undertaking (PSU) Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) to manufacture 120 Vande Bharat Express train sets, valued at nearly $3.63 billion (over ₹30,000 crore), has run into problems.

The issue involves sanctions imposed on Russia, following the Ukraine war, by multiple countries that are spare parts suppliers for Vande Bharat trains.

The Indian Railways awarded the JV deal to the TMH-RVNL consortium after it emerged as the lowest bidder in March. But TMH and RVNL are not able to see eye to eye on the majority shareholding issue for the JV, railway officials confirmed to *The Hindu*.

In the interest of smoother movement of the project, which requires TMH and RVNL to manufacture 120 Vande Bharat train sets, each costing nearly ₹120 crore, officials said that RVNL had requested majority shareholding from TMH. Sources say that TMH has not agreed to this and has also, as a result, not deposited the bank guarantee of nearly ₹200 crore required for the project to get started.

The joint venture is between Transmashholding of Russia and Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.

Imported spares

Not all parts of the much-touted 'Make in India' Vande Bharat train sets are manufactured indigenously. "Many of these parts have to be imported from Western European and American manufacturers," a senior RVNL official said. On May 22, the U.S. imposed sanctions on Metrovagonmash, a division of TMH, which specialises in manufacturing rolling stock for the railways. It is also responsible for the maintenance of the rolling stock and spare parts.

While RVNL has a substantial share in the JV, the Indian PSU is vying for a majority stake as a confidence-building measure. "Many international suppliers and bankers are more confident if the Indian company has the majority share as many of these companies are being guided by sanctions imposed on Russia due to the Ukraine war. They are not comfortable dealing with Russia," the official said.

By June 2025, the TMH-RVNL consortium has to ready the first two prototype Vande Bharat trains for testing and trials. After the prototypes are approved, every year, 12 to 18 trains will be manufactured in a tapered fashion.

The consortium will also run maintenance services on the trains for 35 years. The railways is spending $1.8 billion for the train sets and another $2.5 billion for their maintenance.

"While the Russians are highly technically capable, the question is only that of comfort in dealing with them, and we will resolve this issue within a few days," the official added.

The Russian Embassy did not respond to a request for a comment on the deal. According to sources, both sides had committed to keeping negotiations on the deal bilateral and not making them publicly available.

Indian envoy to Tunisia N.J. Gangte and Tabassum Mansoor with the freed Indian nationals in Tripoli. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On school principal's intervention, nine Indians freed in Libya

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Nine Indian nationals, held captive in Libya for several months, have been freed by their captors, announced Indian Ambassador to Tunisia Ngulkham Jathom Gangte. The release was secured with the help of the principal of the Indian school in Benghazi, Tabassum Mansoor.

"They were held captive since January 18, 2023. Today we welcomed them in a small ceremony in the Indian Ambassador's official residence in Tripoli," said Ms. Tabassum. India's embassy in Tripoli is at present non-operational but Mr. Gangte is in-charge of the developments in Libya.

The Indian nationals have been transferred to a hotel near the Embassy of India compound and arrangements are under way to send them back home.

The nine Indians were on board a ship near the Libyan coast and were taken hostage by extremists who operated from Zawiya, a city near Tripoli. Zawiya has been witnessing intense fighting among various groups in recent weeks.

India and China hold talks on LAC issue in New Delhi

Readouts from both sides suggested no major headway in the slow-moving negotiations on disengagement along the LAC; Chinese statement said 19th military-level talks will be held soon

Ananth Krishnan
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The impasse in negotiations to disengage along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) continued at the first in-person India-China border talks in more than four years, held in New Delhi.

Readouts from both sides following the 27th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) held on Wednesday suggested no major headway in the slow-moving talks. The last time New Delhi hosted WMCC talks was for the 13th round in January 2019. In February, both sides met in Beijing for the first in-person talks in China since the 14th round held in July 2019.

Joint Secretary (East Asia) of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Shilpak Ambule led the Indian delegation, while the Chinese side was led by Hong Liang, Director-General of the Boundary and Oceanic Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). Mr. Hong also called on Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra.

A statement from the MEA said "the two sides reviewed the situation along the LAC in Western Sector of India-China border areas and discussed proposals for disengagement in remaining areas in a frank and open manner".

"Restoration of peace and tranquillity will create conditions for normalising bilateral relations," the statement added.

A statement from the Chinese MFA made no mention of restoration of peace and normalising relations. Beijing has sought to delink the border from the rest of the relationship and called on India to put it in "the proper place", a stand India has rejected describing current ties as "abnormal".

China has also appeared to drag its feet in the slow-moving negotiations to disengage in the two remaining friction areas.

The Chinese statement said the two sides "exchanged in-depth views on current issues of common concern" and reached three points of consensus: on implementing the consensus reached by the Foreign Ministers who met in March in New Delhi and in May in Goa and to accelerate the resolution of issues in the Western Section of the border, to maintain communication through diplomatic and military channels to promote cooling down and easing of the situation, and to hold the 19th round of military-level talks at an early date.

Tussle continues: Beijing has sought to delink border issues from bilateral ties but India has not accepted the suggestion. FILE PHOTO

INBRIEF

Chhattisgarhi actor, artistes and ex-bureaucrats join BJP

Nearly 450 prominent persons from different walks of life –including popular Chhattisgarhi film actor Anuj Sharma and folk dancer Radheshyam Barle – joined the BJP on Thursday. The list includes ex-bureaucrats, politicians, community leaders, besides producers, directors, production manager of Chhattisgarh Film Industries and farmers, a statement said. Mr. Sharma and Mr. Barle are both Padma Shri awardees, and their induction is being seen as a move to counter the ruling Congress' narrative that it promotes Chhattisgarhi culture. They joined party in the presence of BJP State president Arun Sao, State in-charge Om Mathur and former Chief Minister Raman Singh.

Medium-range ballistic missile Agni-1 test-fired in Odisha

A successful training launch of a medium-range ballistic missile, Agni-1 was carried out by the Strategic Forces Command from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha on Thursday. "The missile is a proven system, capable of striking targets with a very high degree of precision. The user training launch successfully validated all operational and technical parameters of the missile," a Defence Ministry statement said. The Agni series of missiles are the mainstay of India's nuclear delivery options.

CDSCO starts probe into eye drops linked to infection

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has initiated a probe into a complaint raised by the Sri Lankan Ministry of Health alleging that eye drops manufactured in India is linked to eye infection in more than 30 people. The preliminary inquiry said that 14 out of 34 patients who underwent cataract surgery since April 5 complained of reduced vision after the use of methylprednisolone eye drops from India. The drops were manufactured by Gujarat-based Indiana Ophthalmics, a company that has been registered with the National Medicines Regulatory Authority of Sri Lanka and supplying the same product for the seven years. They were recalled with "immediate effect" as per an order issued by the Sri Lanka Ministry of Health.

China warns of counter-measures on journalist visas

Ananth Krishnan

China's government has said the number of Chinese journalists in India was "about to drop to zero", amid a string of mutual expulsions of journalists by the two countries.

Chinese authorities have since April 2023 effectively revoked credentials for three of the four Indian reporters accredited in the country. In early April, the Chinese Foreign Ministry "froze" the visas of two Indian correspondents barring their return to China, while last month a third journalist did not have their accreditation renewed, leaving only one active Indian correspondent in China.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Wednesday said it had taken the measures because "Chinese journalists have suffered unfair and discriminatory treatment in India."

"The Indian side still has not renewed the visa of the last Chinese journalist in the country," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a briefing in Beijing. "The number of Chinese journalists stationed in India is about to drop to zero. Considering this, the Chinese side has no choice but to take appropriate counter-measures to safeguard the legi-

The move comes amidst a string of mutual expulsions of reporters by the two countries

timate rights and interests of Chinese media organisations". Beijing has suggested that if the last reporter's credentials were not renewed, it would likely take similar countermeasures on the last accredited Indian reporter, leaving no reporters of the world's two most populous nations reporting out of the other's country.

Since China's "freezing" of the two visas in April, New Delhi and Beijing have been negotiating on the issue of reporters' visas. Beijing has demanded that India stop issuing three-month visas for its reporters and approve year-long visas for at least half a dozen Chinese reporters.

According to Indian officials, the Ministry of Home Affairs had started reducing the period of visas to three months after reportedly red flagging what it saw as non-journalistic activities of some Chinese state media reporters in India. In 2016, three Chinese reporters with the official *Xinhua* news agency did not have their visas renewed after two of them visited Tibetan settlements in Karnataka without reportedly applying for the required permits from the Home Ministry.

The Ministry of External Affairs has not commented on the recent round of expulsions.

The Chinese MFA spokesperson, Mao Ning, said "In 2017, the Indian side shortened the period of validity of visas held by Chinese journalists in India to three months or even one month without any valid reason." "Since 2020," Ms. Mao added, "the Indian side has refused to review and approve Chinese journalists' applications for stationing in India. As a result, the number of Chinese journalists stationed in India has plummeted from 14 at the normal time to just one." "As we speak, I would like to stress that China is still willing to maintain communication with India under the principles of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit," she added.

"We hope that India will work in the same direction with China, seriously respond to China's legitimate concerns, and take concrete steps as soon as possible to create favourable conditions for restoring normal exchange between the media organisations of the two countries."

Kuki groups deny violation of rules under Suspension of Operations agreement

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Kuki militant groups which signed a Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact with the Centre and the Manipur government in 2008 have not violated any ground rules, a member of the SoO group said on Thursday. The member added that the groups would stick to their demand for a separate administration of hill areas in Manipur during future peace talks with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday warned the SoO groups that "any violation of any condition of the agreement will be dealt with harshly."

The SoO group member, who did not wish to be named, said that the groups were disappointed by the "general statement" by the Minister. "There was no mention of violations by the security forces against the tribals in the hill areas. The weapons from police battalions were used against the hill people, many were just defending themselves by their licensed weapons," the member said.

The Manipur government, the MHA and 24 Kuki insurgent groups formalised an SoO pact in 2008. The groups have since held several rounds of negotia-

A September 2010 photo shows cadres arriving to deposit their weapons in a designated camp.

tion with the Centre and had almost settled for "local self-governance" of Kuki tribal areas in Manipur before the current bout of violence erupted on May 3.

The 2008 pact was signed in the wake of Kuki-Naga clashes in the 1990s when hundreds were killed. The militant groups had then demanded an independent land for the Kukis.

Pact conditions

The main conditions of the pact were that the groups would surrender their weapons, join peace talks and stay in designated camps. The SoO was signed by two Kuki umbrella organisations which together represented 24 insurgent groups.

There are 2,200 cadres belonging to the two organisations who are supposed to stay in 14 designated camps. They are each entitled to a monthly stipend of ₹6,000. After the May 3 violence erupted in Manipur, there were allegations that the sophisticated weapons surrendered as part of the SoO pact were used to attack the Meitei community.

"The camps are in a terrible condition. The stipend comes once in every 14 months. Though the Centre reimburses the funds to Manipur government, the latter does not release the money timely. If cadres do not step out of the camps to earn their living, will they eat dust?" asked the SoO group member.

According to the rules, the surrendered weapons are kept in locked trunks and compartments and are to be checked by security forces every week, with a key available with the militant groups also. After the violence, a weapons audit was ordered at the SoO camps.

On March 10 this year, the N. Biren Singh government decided to withdraw from the agreement, with two Kuki-Zomi militant groups – the Kuki National Army (KNA) and the Zomi Revolutionary Army (ZRA) – accusing them of pushing illegal migrants from Myanmar. The Kuki-Chin-Mizo communities, who have shared ethnic ties, are spread across Manipur and Mizoram, as well as in the neighbouring countries of Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Rajiv Singh is the new DGP of Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Manipur government on Thursday appointed Rajiv Singh, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Tripura cadre as the new Director-General of Police (DGP) of Manipur.

Mr. Singh, a 1993 batch IPS officer replaces P. Doungel, who was transferred as Officer on Special Duty (Home), a post created on Thursday. Mr. Doungel, a 1987 batch IPS officer from Manipur cadre belongs to the Kuki community. The State has been affected by ethnic violence between Kuki and Meitei communities since May 3.

Mr. Doungel has been sidelined since May 3 when former CRPF Director-General Kuldiep Singh was appointed as security adviser.

During Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit, Mr. Doungel was not part of any security review meeting held in Imphal.

He however accompanied Mr. Shah to the hill areas and attended the security review meetings at these locations.

Army flays social media leaks on Meitei officers posted in Manipur

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Dimapur-based III Corps of the Army on Thursday put out a statement censuring efforts to publicly out Meitei officers posted in Manipur.

The State is in the middle of ethnic conflict between the Scheduled Tribe Kuki-Zomi people and the dominant Meitei people.

Soon after news became public of the transfer of IPS officer P. Doungal, divesting him of his post as Director-General of Police of Manipur, several accounts on social media started circulating a list of Meitei officers posted for duties in the State, seeking that they be transferred to ensure the safety of Kuki people.

The Spear Corps posted a statement on Twitter condemning the list and saying it was "aimed at maligning the very foundation of faith & ethos of officers of the Indian Army" in addition to casting aspersions on their loyalty and integrity towards the nation.

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CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in
THE CHIEF ENGINEER (PROCUREMENT) INVITES E-TENDER FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS:-

NIT No.: CE(P)/ WBSETCL/IT/ CorpLAN/23-24/06 Date: 02.06.2023	Upgradation of the existing Corporate LAN (SITTO) of WBSETCL Head Quarters at Vidyut Bhavan and Providing Managed Service for maintenance of Corporate for a period of 05 (five) years after operationalization and other associated works as defined in the Bid document. Bid documents can be downloaded from **02.06.2023** and bids shall be submitted (online) up to **04:00 P.M., 26.06.2023.**
NIT No.: CE(P)/ WBSETCL/ISO/ 23-24/07 Date: 02.06.2023	Procurement of Isolators. Bid documents can be downloaded from **02.06.2023, 12:00 Noon** and bids shall be submitted (online) up to **04:00 P.M., 30.06.2023.**

Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents by registering themselves on the e-tendering portal (**https://wbtenders.gov.in**). Visit the Company's website **www.wbsetcl.in** for details.
ICA-T11305(3)/2023

LOOK OUT NOTICE

Suresh @Kayalmadan, age age 46 S/o Kunjumon, Modiyil Veedu, Erumakkad, Edayaranmula, Aranmula, Pathanamthitta District, Kerala is an accused in two POCSO Cases in Cr.886/2022, U/s 323, 506(I), 354(A)(I)(i), 376 AB, 376(2)(n) (f), 376(3) IPC 4(2) r/w 3(a), 6r/w5(I)(m)(n) of POCSO Act & 75 of JJ Act, Cr.887/2022, U/s 506(I), 354(A)(I)(i), 376 AB, 376(2)(n)(f), 376(3) IPC 4(2) r/w 3(a), 6r/w5(I)(m)(n) of POCSO Act & 75 of JJ Act of Aranmula Police Station. If any information obtained about him please contact the following Phone Numbers.
Deputy Supdt. of Pathanamthitta : 9497990033
Inspector of Police Aranmula : 9497987047
Sub Inspector of Police Aranmula: 9497980226
Aranmula Police Station : 0468 2318100
RO/01268/F2/2023/I&PRD

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Thiruvananthapuram Division
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Traction / Thiruvananthapuram, invites ONLINE tenders for the following works.

E-Tender Notice No: V/TRD-OT/04/2023-24 item 1 Dated 30.05.2023
Name of work: TVC Division-Replacement of Aluminium along track feeder by Copper feeders in the Jurisdiction of Chalakkudi Feeding Post.
Tender Value: ₹16,36,678.48
Period of completion: 180 days
Earnest Money Deposit: ₹32,700.00

E-Tender Notice No: V/TRD-OT/04/2023-24 item 2 Dated 30.05.2023
Name of work: TVC Division-Replacement of Aluminium along track feeder by Copper feeder at ERS/TSS to ERN/SSP and ERS yard
Tender Value: ₹28,71,540/-
Period of completion: 180 days
Earnest Money Deposit: ₹57,400.00

E-Tender Notice No: V/TRD-OT/04/2023-24 item 3 Dated 30.05.2023
Name of work: TVC Division-OHE modification work in connection with shifting of IOL at Pudukad and Angamali
Tender Value: ₹42,18,637.68
Period of completion: 180 days
Earnest Money Deposit: ₹84,400.00

E-Tender Notice No: V/TRD-OT/04/2023-24 item 4 Dated 30.05.2023
Name of work: SRR-ERS section-Upgradation of small pulley ATD with modified pulley.
Tender Value: ₹30,14,438.70
Period of completion: 180 days
Earnest Money Deposit: ₹60,300.00

Date and Time of Tender closing: 29.06.2023 @14.00Hrs
Complete Details and Tender document will be available at **http://www.ireps.gov.in**
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RAJASTHAN STATE GANGANAGAR SUGAR MILLS LIMITED
Regd. Office: 3rd Floor, Centre of Excellence for Revenue Research & Analytics Facilitation, Plot no.2, Near Aranyan Bhawan, Jhalana Doongari, Jaipur-302004 CIN:U15421RJ1945SGC000285 Tel: 0141-2740841, Fax: 0141-2740676, Email-ID : dgmpurchase.rsgsm@rajasthan.gov.in
NIB. NO. RSGSM/Old Glass Bottle/RC/2023-24/Pur/11 Dated :- 30/05/2023
NOTICE INVITING BID
पुराने ग्लास निप्स (180 मिली) और बोतल और (750 मिली) के लिए इच्छुक बोलीदाताओं से 21.06.2023 को सांय 5.00 बजे तक बोलियां आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। बोली के अन्य विवरण राज्य सरकार के प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**) और विभागीय वेबसाइट **http://rajexcise.gov.in** पर देखे जा सकते हैं। **UBN : GSM2324GLRC00030**
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Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
232433 000070	Procurement of Clay	13.06.2023

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कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग भरतपुर
क्रमांक:-अमुअ/भरत/त.स./2023-24/डी-263 दिनांक:19.05.2023
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या 09/(पीएमजीएसवाई-III) Batch-II)/ 2022-23
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से प्रधानमन्त्री ग्राम सड़क योजना (पीएमजीएसवाई-III) (Batch-II) के अन्तर्गत सड़क चौड़ाईकरण एवं सुदृढ़ीकरण हेतु मय पाँच साल की मरम्मत के लिऐ प्रतिशत दर के अनुसार कुल 02 पैकेज अनुमानित लागत राशि रू. **1140.83** लाख के लिऐ उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से अल्पकालीन ऑन लाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेब साईट **www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in** व **www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in, "www.sppp.raj.nic.in"** व **www.pmgsytendersraj.gov.in** पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजीटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेब साईट **www.pmgsytendersraj.gov.in** पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक हैं।
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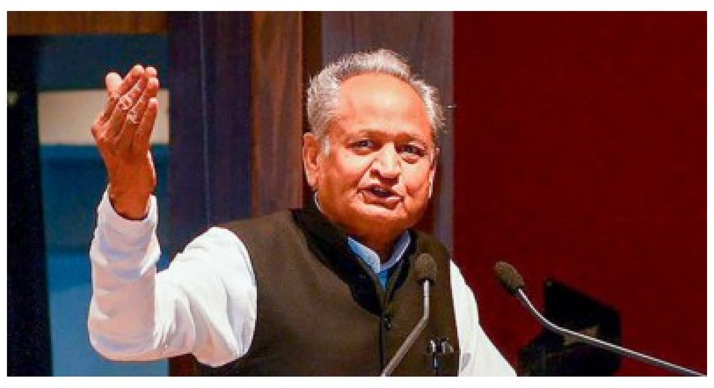
UBN No.- PWD2324WSOB02358, PWD2324WSOB02359
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सानिवि संभाग भरतपुर
DIPR/C/7581/2023

INBRIEF



100 units of free power for all households in Rajasthan: CM

In a decision ahead of this year's Assembly election, the power bill charges for the first 100 units for all domestic consumers have been waived in Rajasthan. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said the decision would remove an anomaly on the ceiling for electricity consumption set earlier. However, BJP spokesperson Ramlal Sharma said that the Congress government's latest move would only add to the State's heavy debt burden.

'Intruder' shot dead by BSF near International Border

A Pakistani "intruder" was shot dead near the International Border in Jammu's Samba district on Thursday, the Border Security Forces (BSF) said. "In the early hours of June 1, the BSF troops noticed a suspicious movement of a person who crossed the International Border from the Pakistan side in Samba area. The intruder was warned and was later shot since he kept advancing towards border fence," the BSF said.

Sedition law can be retained but with safeguards: Law Commission

It said sedition being a 'colonial legacy' is not a valid ground for law repeal but in view of the misuse of Section 124A, the panel has recommended that the Centre issue model guidelines to curb its wrong application by enforcement agencies

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) dealing with sedition needs to be retained but certain amendments could be made for greater clarity regarding its usage, the 22nd Law Commission has said in its report to the government.

The commission said sedition being a "colonial legacy" is not a valid ground for its repeal but in view of the misuse of Section 124A, the panel has recommended that the Centre issue model guidelines to curb any misuse.

"In this context, it is also alternatively suggested that a provision analogous to Section 196(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 [CrPC] may be incorporated as a proviso to Section 154 of CrPC, which would provide the requisite procedural safeguard before filing of an FIR with respect to an offence under Section 124A of IPC," chairman of the 22nd Law Commission Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi (retired) said in his covering letter to Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal.

> Merely ascribing the term 'colonial' to a law or institution does not by itself ascribe to it an idea of anachronism
>
> Report of Law Commission chaired by Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi (retired)

Home Ministry letter

According to the note to the Law Minister, the Law Commission received a reference from the Home Ministry through a letter dated March 29, 2016, addressed to the Department of Legal Affairs in the Law Ministry for a study of the usage of the provision of Section 124A and suggest amendments.

The Law Commission said the existence of laws such as Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the National Security Act (NSA) does not by implication cover all elements of the offence envisaged under Section 124A of the IPC.

"Further, in the absence of a provision like Section 124A of IPC, any expression that incites violence against the government would invariably be tried under the special laws and counter-terror legislation, which contain much more stringent provisions to deal with the accused," the report said.

The report pointed out that it is often said that the offence of sedition is a colonial legacy based on the era in which it was enacted, especially given its history of usage against India's freedom fighters.

'Normatively neutral'

"However, going by that virtue, the entire framework of the Indian legal system is a colonial legacy. The police force and the idea of an All-India Civil Service are also temporal remnants of the British era. Merely ascribing the term 'colonial' to a law or institution does not by itself ascribe to it an idea of anachronism. The colonial origins of a law are by themselves normatively neutral. The mere fact that a particular legal provision is colonial in its origin does not ipso facto validate the case for its repeal," the panel said.

"Even though, in our considered opinion, it is imperative to lay down certain procedural guidelines for curbing any misuse of Section 124A of IPC by the law enforcement authorities, any allegation of misuse of this provision does not by implication warrant a call for its repeal," it said.

It noted that there are plethora of examples of various laws being misused by ill-intentioned individuals only to settle their scores in cases of personal rivalries and vested interests and even the Supreme Court recognised the same in a number of decisions. However, any alleged misused can be reined in by laying down procedural safeguards, it said.

Tiffin-bomb case: NIA court declares SFJ member an offender

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has secured a court order declaring a Germany-based member of the banned Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) a proclaimed offender in the Model Jail 'tiffin-bomb' case of April 2022.

A non-bailable warrant had earlier been issued against the accused, Jaswinder Singh aka Multani, who is originally from Mansoorpur village in Hoshiarpur's Mukerian of Punjab. The NIA had also declared a reward of ₹10 lakh and opened a Look-Out Circular (LOC) against him.

According to the agency, Multani was the mastermind behind the planting of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) outside the wall of Model Jail in Burail, Chandigarh, with the intention of spreading terror and causing violence.

In FIR, wrestlers narrate traumatic memories of sexual harassment by Singh

Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI

While Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh remains defiant, the wrestlers, in the police FIR, have shared their ordeal of years of sexual harassment and how some were treated indifferently "for not supporting him".

The two FIRs were filed at Connaught Place police station by the Delhi Police, after the intervention of Supreme Court on April 28. Mr. Singh has been booked under IPC sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 354A (sexual harassment), 354D (stalking) and 34 (common intention), and under provisions of POCSO Act. Along with him, WFI secretary Vinod Tomar has also been named in the police FIR.

For the minor girl, who has played at various championships and is currently 17 years old, her father filed the police complaint. The girl had been wrestling since 2016. Her father said when she won a gold medal at a championship that took place in India, the accused, on pretext of taking a photo, "had forcefully pulled the girl towards him and held her so tightly that she couldn't move or free herself from his grip".

"Mr. Singh further deliberately slid his hand down her shoulder," her father said, in the FIR.

Another wrestler, in the FIR, said Mr. Singh first sexually assaulted her in August last year. "When I was training, the accused pulled up my t-shirt and touched my belly on the pretext of checking my breath," the wrestler said.

The wrestler further said she had noticed that none of the female wrestlers would ever plan on going out independently. "All female wrestlers always went out together, only to avoid meeting the accused alone," she said.

The woman asserted, "It is necessary to stop the accused from committing more acts of sexual harassment and exploitation and I request you to put him behind bars."

Centre sensitive to wrestlers' issue: Minister

Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Thursday said the Centre was "sensitively handling the issue" of the wrestlers' protest, demanding the arrest of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. He said that the wrestlers should not take any step that affects players and sports.

Farmer leaders to meet President seeking justice

Farmer leaders from across Haryana, Punjab and western U.P. on Thursday gathered for a *mahapanchayat* and took a decision to meet President Droupadi Murmu seeking justice for wrestlers. The khap leaders are also reportedly planning to approach various international fora.

'Half of electricity to be from renewable sources by 2027'

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

While India may have internationally committed to half its installed electricity being sourced from renewable sources by 2030, an estimate of the country's projected power needs by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on Wednesday suggests that this target may be achieved early, by 2026-27.

The National Electricity Plan (NEP) prepared by the CEA is a five-year plan that assesses India's current electricity needs, projected growth, power sources, and challenges. The voluminous document notes that "...the share of non-fossil based capacity is likely to increase to 57.4% by the end of 2026-27 and may likely to further increase to 68.4% by the end of 2031-32 from around 42.5% as on April 2023."

Installed capacity, however, does not perfectly translate into generated power as different sources of energy have varying efficiencies, and not all sources of power are available at all times. For instance, solar power is available only during the day and wind energy is dependent on climate vagaries. Accounting for this, the available power from renewable energy will only be around 35.04% of the total generated electricity by 2026-27 and 43.96% by 2031-32, the NEP estimates.

The government is committed to adding 50 GW of renewable energy every year.

Independent experts told *The Hindu* that the NEP's targets were "ambitious but possible". "It's a little ambitious but the government has recently said that it is committed to adding 50 GW [of renewable energy] every year," said Vibhuti Garg, South Asia director at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

NCERT in 'rationalisation' move drops periodic table chapter from Class X book

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has decided to omit the chapter on the periodic table from Class X Science textbooks as part of the "rationalisation" exercise. The chapter, however, has been retained in Class XI textbook.

The NCERT had notified these changes in its June 2022 circular which has been widely debated in academic circles. The new textbooks with these deletions and changes have now hit the market.

Nearly 68 lakh students opted for Arts and Commerce stream in academic year of 2021-22, which is 54% of 1.25 crore students who passed Class X. Considering that a similar number of students opt for non-science streams in coming years, they may lose out on the opportunity to learn about the crucial basic Chemistry concepts, that are now only accessible in Class XI.

While this data pertains to nearly 60 State boards, NCERT textbooks are considered as a cornerstone to guide publication of State board textbooks.

The new textbooks with the deletions and changes have now hit the market.

"The periodic table and the logical organisation of elements is fundamental to the understanding of chemistry. To leave that out is not preparing students adequately for things they may have to learn in future. All students should be expected to have a knowledge of these basic aspects of chemistry," said Gautam Menon, Professor of Physics and Biology at Ashoka University.

According to the NCERT, it has been carrying out the exercise – "rationalisation of contents in the textbooks" – across all classes to "reduce content load on students, in view of the COVID-19 pandemic".

Earlier this year, the council had controversially dropped Darwin's theory of evolution from its Class X textbooks. The council has also deleted chapters – Democracy and Diversity, Popular Struggles and Movements, Political Parties, and Challenges to Democracy – from the Political Science textbooks as part of the exercise.

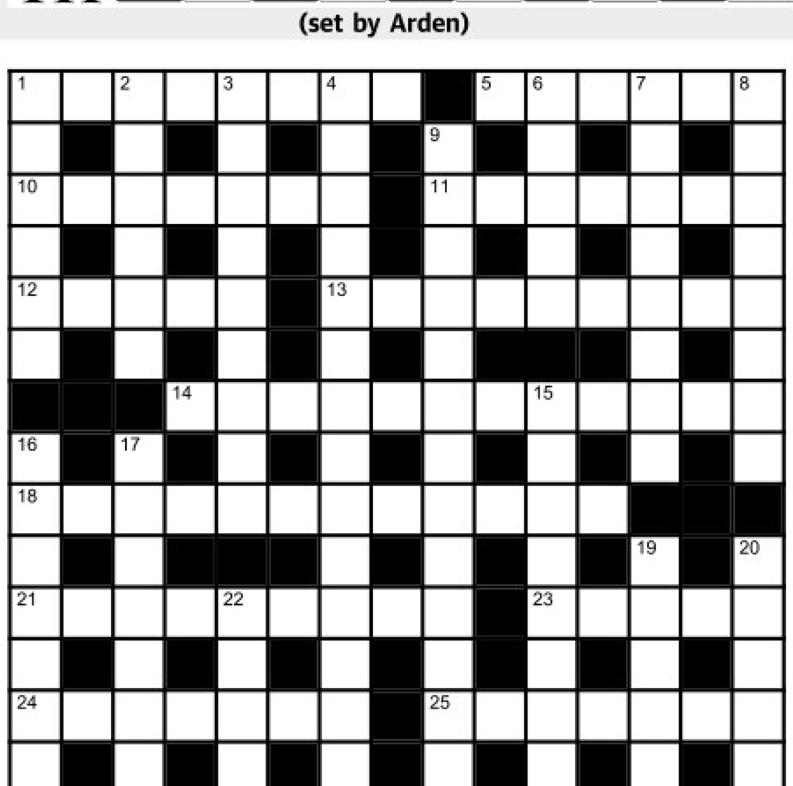
Among other controversial omissions, the NCERT had also deleted any mention of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, a freedom fighter and India's first Education Minister. The authors of the revised Class XI textbook had also deleted the fact that Jammu and Kashmir had acceded to India on the basis of a promise that the State would remain autonomous. History of Mughal courts, references to the 2002 communal riots in Gujarat, the Naxalite movement, and mention of Dalit writers were also omitted from the CBSE syllabus.

TH CROSSWORD+ 13881

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Balanced air service (8)
5 Measure to interrupt message - one gets a whiff (6)
10 Regular tweet -"cover the back and blow it" (7)
11 Cheer girl following those in the middle (7)
12 Within the circle, a regular permit (5)
13 Internal resistance gone when coated with enamel (9)
14 Strangely calm with age, imprisoned Arab dictator (12)
18 Delay as new road gets damaged - payment collected (4,4,4)
21 Study on nuclear phenomenon leads to Hubble-bubble (9)
23 Reportedly sent to work in our midst (5)
24 Hard copy covers for American airway (7)
25 Nervously lie in wait, we go first... (7)
26 ...and Sir Harry gets some money (6)
27 Appoint representative (8)

Down

1 Tempt a bit with authentic entertainment (6)
2 Gather from top to bottom - to be brought out (6)
3 Batman, perhaps, turning our sphere (9)
4 Brave and active Armenian, perhaps (6,8)
6 Cattlemen in Zambia, same as some of them from the South (5)
7 Keeping quiet in most of the country, that's the vital part (8)
8 Disgust having had some fruit (8)
9 Beginning of conflict, double attack in a bid to curry favour (5,9)
15 Annie does go crazy, it's part of her DNA (9)
16 Learned that some old money is invested upriver (8)
17 Insist it is not in the sea (8)
19 She riding a horse was a revelation (6)
20 Protection as some work comes up - getting sick? (6)
22 Escort American woman (5)

SUDOKU

		8		3	4			
				6	8			3
		7	9					6
9	8	4				1	6	
	1	6				4	2	5
1					7	2		
4			1	9				
			2	4		5		

No.SS5817 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	2	5	3	9	6	1	8	4
9	3	8	1	7	4	6	2	5
6	4	1	2	5	8	9	7	3
2	7	6	9	4	3	5	1	8
1	5	3	6	8	2	4	9	7
4	8	9	7	1	5	2	3	6
8	6	7	5	2	1	3	4	9
3	1	4	8	6	9	7	5	2
5	9	2	4	3	7	8	6	1

FAITH

Nammazhwar, guiding light

Wise men are born among us in order to show the way forward in finding the true meaning of life. Often, such guiding lights arrive without much fanfare and the parents have very little or no idea at all of the child's true nature and destiny. One such was Nammazhwar, the doyen among the Vaishnavite azhwars, said Thirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh. Born to Karimaran and Udaya Nambi, in the Tamil month of Vaigasi, under the Visakam star, the child neither cried, nor drank milk after birth. For ten days, his parents watched in dismay as the child showed no signs of behaving like a new born. When the baby showed no signs of wanting anything, the distraught parents placed him at the feet of the presiding deity, Adhinadha Perumal, at Azhwartirunagari and left.

Due to Divine grace, the child crawled to the shade of a tamarind tree near the temple and went into deep meditation and remained so for 16 years, during which time it experienced oneness with Lord and gained great wisdom and insight. At 16, the child who had grown into a scholarly, erudite youth, was discovered by Madhurakavi Azhwar, who later became his sishya. For the next 19 years of his life, Maran, who came to be known as Nammazhwar, dedicated himself to the task of distilling Vaishnavism in a manner accessible to all, in Tamil. He rendered the four Vedas as prabhandams. Thiruviruttam on the lines of The Rig Veda, Thiruvasiriyam along the Yajur Veda, Periathiruvanthadi in tune with Atharvana Veda and Thiruvaimozhi to resonate with Sama Veda.

Ramanuja's Sree Bhashyam is another tribute to Thiruvaimozhi and shows his bhakti towards Nammazhwar.

AMMAN

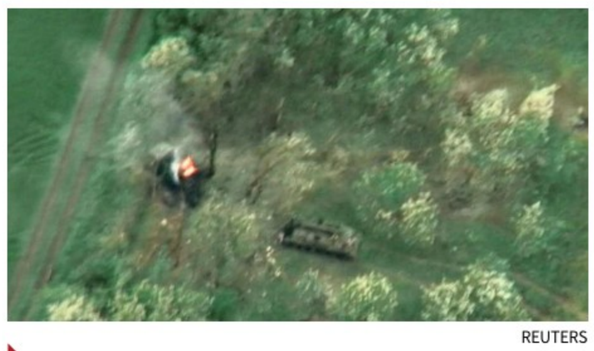
Jordan Crown Prince weds Saudi architect in lavish ceremony

REUTERS

Jordan's Crown Prince Hussein bin Abdullah married Saudi architect Rajwa Al Saif. The King's eldest son and Al Saif, both aged 28, tied the knot at a ceremony attended by their families and 140 guests, including U.S. First Lady Jill Biden and Britain's Prince and Princess of Wales, who made a surprise appearance. AFP

MOSCOW

Russia says it has repelled new Belgorod border incursion attempt

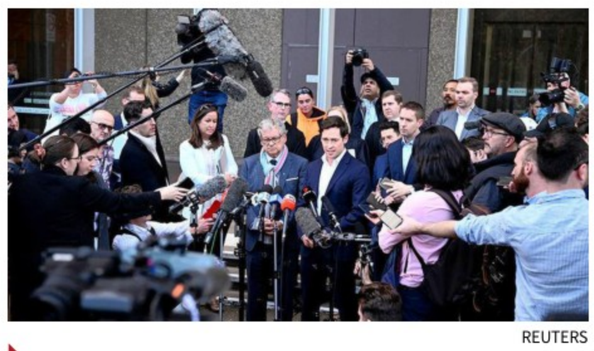


REUTERS

Russia said it repelled an attempted incursion along its border by 'pro-Ukrainian militants', while heavy shelling prompted a partial evacuation of civilians. Russia repelled three cross-border attacks near Shebekino, and it accused Ukraine of using "terrorist formations" to carry out attacks on civilians. REUTERS

SYDNEY

Australian soldier loses Afghan war crimes defamation case



REUTERS

A decorated Australian soldier lost a landmark defamation case on Thursday. Ben Roberts-Smith sued three newspapers for 2018 reports that alleged he was involved in the murders of unarmed prisoners in Afghanistan. The court found that the newspapers had proved the bulk of their allegations and dismissed the case. AFP

KHARTOUM

U.S. slaps sanctions on Sudan rival factions as ceasefire crumbles

AP

The U.S. announced sanctions on Sudanese leaders for the failure of U.S. and Saudi-brokered ceasefire efforts after shelling and air strikes killed 18 civilians at a Khartoum market. "We are following through by levying economic sanctions, imposing visa restrictions against actors who are perpetuating the violence," the U.S. said. AFP

U.S. defence chief laments China's refusal for meeting

Associated Press
TOKYO

U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin stressed the importance of communication during a stopover on Thursday in Tokyo, calling it unfortunate that his Chinese counterpart is refusing to meet him at an upcoming annual security conference in Singapore.

On the way to the annual Shangri-La Dialogue Asian security summit this weekend, Mr. Austin held talks with Japanese Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada.

"I think defence departments should be talking to each other on a routine basis or should have open channels for communication," Mr. Austin spoke about China.

S. Africa mulls legal options on ICC warrant against Putin

The Russian President has been invited for the BRICS summit in August; As a member of the ICC, South Africa is under pressure to arrest Putin; Cyril Ramaphosa to announce the 'final position'

Reuters
CAPE TOWN

A meeting of Foreign Ministers from the BRICS countries in South Africa on Thursday was overshadowed by questions about whether Russian President Vladimir Putin would be arrested if he attended a summit of the five-nation bloc in August.

South Africa's Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor said it was mulling legal options if Mr. Putin, the subject of a war crimes arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC), did attend the planned Johannesburg summit.

Call for action: Activists stage a protest in Cape Town on Thursday against the alleged deportation of Ukrainian children by Russia. AFP

As a member of the ICC, South Africa would theoretically be required to arrest Mr. Putin if he attended, and Ms. Pandor was bombarded with questions about the issue as she arrived for a first round of talks with representatives from Russia, China, India and Brazil.

"Our government is currently looking at what the legal options are with respect to this matter," she told reporters. "The answer is the President (Cyril Ramaphosa) will indicate what the final position of South Africa is. As matters stand, an invitation has been issued to all (BRICS) heads of state." Mr. Putin has not confirmed his plans, with the Kremlin only saying Russia would take part at the "proper level".

The ICC accused Mr. Putin in March of the war crime of forcibly deporting children from Russian-occupied territory in Ukraine. Moscow denies the allegations. South Africa had invited Mr. Putin in January.

Foreign Ministers from Brazil, Russia, and India were attending Thursday's meeting in Cape Town, while China was represented by a Deputy Minister.

U.S. and Taiwan ink trade deal as China issues warning

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The United States and Taiwan signed a trade deal Thursday aimed at deepening economic relations between both sides – in a move that has sparked a warning from Beijing.

The U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade looks to boost trade by streamlining customs checks, improving regulatory procedures, and establishing anticorruption measures between the U.S. and the self-governing island of Taiwan, which China claims as part of its territory.

While the U.S. and Taiwan do not have official diplomatic relations, they maintain unofficial ties through the de facto U.S. embassy on the island, the American Institute in Taiwan. The first agreement under the latest initiative was signed by representatives of the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States, said the U.S. Trade Representative's (USTR) press office on Thursday.

Mao Ning

But Beijing detests any hint of diplomatic relations between Taiwan and other governments.

"Relevant tasks are yet to be completed.... Taiwan will continue to move towards a comprehensive FTA (free trade agreement) with the United States to ensure Taiwan's economic security," he added.

Most comprehensive

Taiwan's government has described the deal as "the most comprehensive" trade agreement signed with Washington since 1979.

China warned Washington earlier on Thursday against signing any pact "with connotations of sovereignty or of an official nature with China's Taiwan region."

The U.S. "must not send the wrong signals to Taiwan independence forces in the name of trade," foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said.

U.S. puts diplomatic pressure as Serbs rally in north Kosovo

Agence France-Presse
ZVECAN

Ethnic Serbs gathered again in a flashpoint town in north Kosovo on Thursday at the site of clashes earlier this week with NATO-led forces, as Washington urged both Belgrade and Pristina to diffuse tensions.

In the northern town of Zvecan, some 70 protesters – significantly fewer than crowds seen on previous days – rallied outside the town hall, sealed off with barbed wire and encircled by NATO-led peacekeepers (KFOR) in full riot gear.

United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken urged both Pristina and Belgrade to ease tensions, warning they were putting aspirations of European integration at risk.

"We call on the governments of Kosovo and Serbia to take immediate steps to de-escalate tensions," Mr. Blinken told reporters at NATO talks in Oslo.

Two Albanians injured

Kosovo Police said two ethnic Albanian men were injured in an attack near a square on the Serb-populated part of the ethnically divided city of Mitrovica.

In Zvecan, a KFOR armoured vehicle was parked near the road leading to the town hall, a move requested on Wednesday by a local Serb party after masked protesters smashed windows on two Kosovo police cars in the town centre, injuring an officer.

Pakistan posts record inflation for second consecutive month

Reuters
ISLAMABAD

At 36.5% in April, Pakistan's CPI was the highest ever recorded in the country, as well as in South Asia

Pakistan's annual inflation rate rose to 37.97% in May, the statistics bureau said on Thursday, setting a national record for the second month in a row, adding to its problems of a balance of payment crisis and the risk of a sovereign default.

Already in April, the bureau said Pakistan's CPI at 36.5% was the highest recorded, as well as the highest in South Asia, ahead of Sri Lanka, which posted annual inflation of 25.2% in May.

Pakistan's month-on-month rise in May was 1.58%, the bureau said in a statement, adding vegetables, pulses, wheat, wheat flour, rice, eggs and chicken in food items and fuel and gas prices caused the increase.

Inflation has been on an upward trend since early this year after the government took painful measures as part of fiscal adjustments demanded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to unlock stalled funding.

The IMF demands include the withdrawal of subsidies, a hike in energy prices and new taxation to generate extra revenue in a supplementary budget.

Chinese fans welcome 'Comrade Musk'

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Lavish meals, gushing praise and memes about "Comrade Musk" – China showered the Tesla CEO with admiration during his whistlestop tour of the country this week.

The mercurial magnate is a controversial figure in the West but widely admired in China, where Tesla's electric vehicles have become a staple of middle-class urban life.

'Musk worship'

His visit was welcomed by Zhu Qi, a Tesla owner from the central city of Changsha who said she "worships" Mr. Musk for his "great personal charm and constant excellence in his field".

Grand welcome: Elon Musk poses for a group photo at the Shanghai Gigafactory of Tesla on Thursday. REUTERS

"China is still not super open... so for people like him to come and share some of their knowledge with us, I think it's something meaningful that our country and leaders can learn from," the 33-year-old university lecturer said. "Due to our exam-focused education system, I think it's hard for China to produce someone like Musk, who has gained world-leading status based on his personal interests."

Chinese social media was abuzz with news of Mr. Musk's sojourn, with related hashtags on the Twitter-like Weibo platform racking up billions of views.

Memes galore

A typically tongue-in-cheek meme circulating on the platform this week depicted a statesmanlike "Comrade Musk" standing behind a podium flanked by Chinese flags as besuited officials applauded in the background.

But not everyone was taken in by Musk mania.

In recent years a growing number of Chinese tech workers have criticised the industry's long hours and high-stress company culture.

THE HINDU GROUP

SMART
IS NOW
A LOT
SMARTER.

COMING SOON

FRONTLINE
INDIA'S NATIONAL MAGAZINE

INBRIEF

TVS, Ather, Ola raise e-bike prices on new subsidy norms

Electric two-wheeler makers TVS Motor Company, Ather Energy and Ola Electric have increased the prices of their products as the reduced subsidy structure came into effect on June 1. The Heavy Industries Ministry had notified that for electric two-wheelers, the demand incentive would be ₹10,000 per kWh. The cap on incentives for electric two-wheelers would be 15% of the ex-factory price of the vehicles instead of 40% at present. PTI

China, India received record Russian crude oil in May: data

Russian crude oil imports by China and India in May hit an all-time high as buyers gorged on discounted supplies, reducing demand for oil from West Asia and Africa, according to preliminary assessments from ship trackers. The world's No. 1 and No. 3 crude importers and top buyers of Russian oil imported about 110 million barrels in May, data from Vortexa and Kpler showed, up almost 10% from April despite U.S. warnings against price-cap evasion. REUTERS

Brookfield buys majority stake in Cleanmax for $360 million

Cleanmax Enviro Energy Solutions has received $360 million in equity funding from global PE major Brookfield. Cleanmax is a renewable energy firm. Brookfield Renewable invested through Brookfield Global Transition Fund. The funding will enable CleanMax to pursue growth plans of becoming a 5 GW platform over the next 3-4 years. Brookfield Renewable will now have a controlling stake in CleanMax. PTI

May's manufacturing PMI scales a 31-month high: S&P Global survey

Overall business confidence levels about growth prospects continued to improve hitting a five-month high; output levels were the highest in 28 months and pressure on capacities compelled firms to accelerate fresh hiring to a six-month high

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) surged to a 31-month high of 58.7 in May, with factory orders rising at the fastest clip since January 2021 and producers accumulating inputs at an unprecedented pace thanks to lower costs.

The index stood at 57.2 in April. The latest reading reflects a substantial improvement in operating conditions with order books growing for the 23rd consecutive month, bolstered further by export deals clocking the swiftest rise in six months.

Output levels were the highest in 28 months and the pressure on capacities drove firms to lift fresh hiring to a six-month high.

While input costs "remained historically mild", S&P Global said its survey of about 400 firms showed that producers raised selling prices at "a solid and quicker rate in May" that was the highest in a year. "Sustained increases in input costs and a supportive demand environment led them to lift their charges," S&P Global said.

Overall business confidence about growth continued to improve, hitting a five-month high, with firms citing publicity and demand resilience as factors spurring the optimism.

"Heightened demand and previously absorbed cost burdens translated into a stronger upward revision to selling charges," noted Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at S&P Global Market Intelligence. "Demand-driven inflation is not inherently negative, but could erode purchasing power, create challenges for the economy and open the door for more interest rate hikes," she cautioned.

Manufacturing momentum

Manufacturing PMI surged to a 31-month high of 58.7 in May as factory orders rose at the fastest clip since January 2021

- Producers accumulated inputs at an unprecedented pace thanks to lower costs, the survey showed
- Order books grew for the 23rd consecutive month, bolstered by export deals clocking the swiftest rise in six months
- Producers raised selling prices at a rate that was the highest in a year

RBI should adopt neutral policy stance as inflation cools: CII's Dinesh

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) president R. Dinesh on Thursday said the time is right for the Reserve Bank of India to move to a neutral monetary policy stance as inflation expectations have cooled, and called for building consensus on critical pending reforms in sectors like labour, land, power and agriculture.

The new president said CII expects GDP growth to be in the range of 6.5% to 6.7% in 2023-24, adding

R .Dinesh

that reforms such as a universal GST with a rationalised three-rate structure and improving contracts' enforcement could spur growth higher to average 7.8% in the 8-year period till 2030-31, compared with the 6.6% average between 2012 and 2019-20.

"We are recommending that the RBI shift its stance to neutral considering that we are better placed than the rest of the world in terms of inflation expectations," Mr. Dinesh said.

As per a CEOs' survey by CII, almost 72% of corporates expect inflation to moderate to less than 5% this year. "While we do understand the necessary actions had to be taken, we believe this [continued pause in the key repo rate and a shift from the hawkish stance] will be a further tailwind for us," he said.

Mr. Dinesh indicated that India's investment rate, as measured by gross capital formation to GDP, which stood at 31.1% in 2022-23, may reach or surpass the five-year high of 33.9% hit in 2017-18 over the near to medium term.

"While headwinds such as the global slowdown, tepid FDI flows, higher borrowing costs could impinge on growth, we believe the tailwinds like the strong public capex and sustained domestic demand will outstrip the headwinds," he averred.

Petrol, diesel sales soar on seasonal fuel demand

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's petrol and diesel sales soared in May as agriculture demand picked up and cars yanked up air-conditioning with the onset of summer, preliminary data showed on Thursday.

Demand for diesel, the most consumed fuel, soared 9.3% to 7.46 million tonne in May compared with the year-earlier period. Petrol sales rose 10.4% to 3.08 million tonne in May, compared with the year-earlier period.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	62,429	-0.31
US Dollar	82.40	0.42
Gold	60,250	-0.25
Brent oil	74.70	2.61

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2492.15	-1.20
Adani Ports	732.05	-6.80
Apollo Hosp	4814.25	192.30
Asian Paints	3240.70	47.75
Axis Bank	919.70	4.85
Bajaj Auto	4643.60	76.45
Bajaj Finserv	1450.15	-0.90
Bajaj Finance	7040.50	50.65
Bharti Airtel	827.95	-21.95
BPCL	364.55	1.05
Britannia Ind	4635.25	-21.80
Cipla	964.75	11.70
Coal India	230.35	-10.90
Divis Lab	3525.40	81.80
Dr Reddys Lab	4552.05	51.00
Eicher Motors	3716.05	44.10
Grasim Ind	1702.45	-15.90
HCL Tech	1141.90	-3.20
HDFC	2646.70	6.30
HDFC Bank	1604.00	-6.85
HDFC Life	582.20	-10.15
Hero MotoCorp	2800.40	40.50
Hindalco	406.35	0.45
Hind Unilever	2697.90	30.35
ICICI Bank	936.10	-13.05
IndusInd Bank	1290.15	3.55
Infosys	1319.50	1.20
ITC	439.70	-5.80
JSW Steel	693.85	-2.45
Kotak Bank	1930.05	-84.30
L&T	2207.80	2.15
M&M	1318.90	-0.10
Maruti Suzuki	9328.30	-39.40
NestleIndia	21874.30	201.20
NTPC	174.40	0.55
ONGC	153.65	-1.25
PowerGrid Corp	233.00	-0.85
Reliance Ind	2463.25	-6.65
SBI Life	1207.75	-27.25
State Bank	582.75	2.90
Sun Pharma	987.70	12.35
TataConsumerProduct	793.65	-5.00
Tata Motors	535.20	8.90
Tata Steel	105.95	0.15
TCS	3324.00	34.50
Tech Mahindra	1120.80	5.25
Titan	2827.25	4.00
UltraTech Cement	7842.80	-27.25
UPL	677.95	-7.15
Wipro	407.15	3.50

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 01

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.21	82.53
Euro	88.06	88.41
British Pound	102.57	102.98
Japanese Yen (100)	58.95	59.18
Chinese Yuan	11.56	11.61
Swiss Franc	90.57	90.93
Singapore Dollar	60.84	61.08
Canadian Dollar	60.62	60.86
Malaysian Ringitt	17.81	17.90
Australian Dollar	53.63	53.84

Source:Indian Bank

Auto wholesales rise buoyed by robust demand for SUVs

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Automakers led by Maruti Suzuki India, Hyundai, Mahindra & Mahindra, and Toyota Kirloskar Motor on Thursday reported robust wholesales of passenger vehicles in the domestic market in May riding on strong demand for SUVs.

Other manufacturers such as Tata Motors, Kia and MG Motor India also reported increase in their dispatches to dealers during the month.

Market leader Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) reported a 15% rise in total domestic passenger vehicle

sales at 1,43,708 units as compared with 1,24,474 units in the same month last year.

Utility vehicle sales rose 65% to 46,243 units as against 28,051 vehicles in the year-earlier month, MSI said.

Rival Hyundai Motor India Ltd said its domestic sales grew 14.9% at 48,601 units as compared with 42,293 units in the year-ago month.

Tata Motors, however, had a moderate domestic passenger vehicle sales growth at 6% posting 45,878 units last month as compared with 43,341 units in May last year.

In contrast, Toyota Kirloskar Motor posted its highest-ever sales in a month with a two-fold increase to 20,410 units in May. MG Motor India also reported a 25% rise in retail sales at 5,006 units in May compared with the same month last year.

'Digital leadership roles rising in India'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

India's share in global digital leadership is on the rise, according to an analysis prepared by Nasscom in association with consulting firm Zinnov.

For instance, in 2022, there were only some 5,000 global roles present in the country, but global digital leadership roles here are projected to grow to 20,000 by 2030, the industry body said.

This indicated India was becoming a hub not just for innovation and digital capabilities but for digital leadership as well, said

Debjani Ghosh

Nasscom.

"India is poised to evolve into the ultimate destination for global capability centres, catering to their diverse needs in terms of leadership and operational excellence," said Debjani Ghosh, President, Nasscom.

Institutions lap up Coal India shares with ₹6,500-crore bids

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Institutional investors lapped up Coal India shares in this fiscal's maiden government stake-sale, with ₹6,500-crore bids pouring in on the first day of the offer-for-sale.

The government had offered more than 8.31 crore shares to institutional investors on Thursday under the offer-for-sale (OFS), but received bids for 28.76 crore shares, or 3.46 times.

At the indicative price of ₹226.12 a share, the bids of institutional buyers are worth ₹6,500 crore.

"Offer for Sale in CIL re-

ceived enthusiastic response from non-retail investors today," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey tweeted. "The issue was subscribed 3.46 times of the base size. The government has decided to exercise the green-shoe option. Retail investors get to bid tomorrow." The government currently holds 66.13% cent in CIL.

The stake sale in Coal India will help the government inch towards the ₹51,000-crore disinvestment target set for the current fiscal.

In the two-day OFS, the government is selling more than 18.48 crore shares, or 3% in the PSU at a floor price of ₹225 a share. The sale includes a green-shoe option of 1.5% in case of oversubscription. CIL shares settled for the day at ₹230.55 apiece on the BSE, down 4.42% from the previous closing price.

Sport

Sevilla in seventh heaven after Europa League title triumph

Agence France-Presse
BUDAPEST

Sevilla found its Europa League magic formula on Wednesday, beating Roma 4-1 on penalties after a 1-1 draw to make it seven wins in seven finals in Europe's second-tier competition.

The Spanish side trailed after Paulo Dybala's first-half opener in Budapest but pulled level in the second period when Roma defender Gianluca Mancini scored an own goal.

On to penalties

Extra-time could not separate the teams and the game went to penalties at the Puskas Arena.

Gonzalo Montiel, who scored the winning penalty in the 2022 World Cup final, netted the decisive spot-kick after Mancini and

On a high: Sevilla players celebrate their title triumph. AFP

Roger Ibanez had failed to convert for Roma.

The fans created a crackling atmosphere before kick-off but the early stages of the game did not match the colour in the stands.

The Italian side created the first opportunity of the match but Leonardo Spinazzola shot straight at Sevilla goalkeeper Yassine Bounou after neat build-up play involving Dybala and Zeki Celik.

Just after the half-hour, Roma appealed for a spot-kick after forward Tammy Abraham was caught on the head by a high boot from Nemanja Gudelj as the Sevilla defender was clearing the ball but VAR confirmed it was not a penalty.

But minutes later it was in front.

Dybala ran between two defenders and latched onto Mancini's through ball from the centre circle, coolly slotting his shot past Bounou.

Finding fluency

Sevilla, finally finding some fluency, came agonisingly close to levelling deep into the seven minutes of added-on time when Ivan Rakitic drilled a fierce left-footed strike from distance that cannoned back off an upright.

Sevilla boss Jose Luis Mendilibar brought on forwards Suso and Erik Lamela for Oliver Torres and Bryan Gil at the break and the Spanish side began the second period on the front foot.

Own goal

It was level after 10 minutes when Mancini bundled a Jesus Navas cross from the right into his own net from close range.

Extra-time was largely uneventful as tempers flared between the two benches but Roma defender Chris Smalling almost snatched the win when he hit the woodwork with a looping header from a corner in the dying seconds.

The result: Sevilla 1 (Mancini 55-og) drew with Roma 1 (Dybala 35) after extra time (*Sevilla won 4-1 on penalties*).

Kiran stuns Weng to make quarterfinals

THAILAND OPEN

Press Trust of India
BANGKOK

Top Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen progressed to the men's singles quarterfinals with an upset win over Li Shi Feng of China in the Thailand Open Super 500 tournament here on Thursday.

Sen beat his fourth seeded Chinese opponent 21-17, 21-15 in a round of 16 match that lasted 49 minutes.

The World No. 23 will face qualifier Leong Jun Hao of Malaysia in the quarterfinals on Friday.

Another Indian, Kiran George, who made it to the main round through the qualifiers, also advanced to the men's singles quarterfinals after beating World No. 26 Weng Hong Yang of China 21-11, 21-19 in 39 minutes.

In the women's singles, an out of touch Saina Nehwal lost 11-21, 14-21 to third seed and World No. 5 He Bing Jao of China.

The results: Round of 16: Men: Lakshya Sen bt Li Shi Feng (Chn) 21-17, 21-15; Kiran George bt Weng Hong Yang (Chn) 21-11, 21-19.

Women: He Bing Jao (Chn) bt Saina Nehwal 21-11, 21-14; Carolina Marin (Esp) bt Ashmita Chaliha 21-18, 21-13.

Doubles: Men: Muhammad Shohibul Fikri & Bagas Maulana (Ina) bt Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty 24-26, 21-11, 21-17.

IN CONTROL

Broad takes five as England dominates Ireland at Lord's

England took control of the Test against Ireland at Lord's on Thursday, with Broad's five for 51 helping the host dismiss the visitor for 172 before a strong reply left it only 20 runs behind. **The scores:** Ireland 172 in 56.2 overs (Broad 5/51, Leach 3/35) vs England 152/1 in 25 overs (Crawley 56, Duckett 60 batting).

PERENNIAL STUDENT

Conway has caught the Williamson bug to keep learning: Bracewell

Former New Zealand spinner John Bracewell believes Devon Conway has caught the "Kane Williamson bug" to keep learning from past mistakes. "I like the way he's becoming a better cricketer all the time, so he's obviously caught the Kane Williamson bug of being a learner," Bracewell said.

FRENCH CONNECTION ENDS

Saturday's game will be Messi's last for PSG at Parc des Princes: Galtier

Lionel Messi will leave Paris Saint-Germain at the end of the season after two years at the club, coach Christophe Galtier said on Thursday. Galter said ahead of PSG's game against Clermont on Saturday that it would be Messi's last match at the Parc des Princes. Messi's contract expires at the end of June.

DONE WITH IT

Ronaldo's first season in Saudi Arabia comes to an end

Cristiano Ronaldo's first season in Saudi Arabia came to an end in Riyadh on Wednesday, although the star forward was absent as Al-Nassr defeated Al-Fateh 3-0 to finish second in the league. Ronaldo, who scored 14 goals in 16 league games, picked up a muscle injury four days previously and was rested since.

Altmaier rallies from the brink to dump Sinner in a marathon

He staves off match points to oust the eighth seed after a five-hour battle; Andreeva becomes youngest player since 2005 to reach the third round

FRENCH OPEN

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Italian eighth seed Jannik Sinner missed two match points before being knocked out of the French Open in the second round on Thursday by German Daniel Altmaier after a dramatic five-hour, 26-minute battle – the fifth longest match in tournament history.

Altmaier, the World No. 79, twice staved off match points late in the fourth set before eventually prevailing 6-7(0), 7-6(7), 1-6, 7-6 (4), 7-5 on Court Suzanne Lenglen. "I don't know if you can call it a historical match, but it was one to remember," said an emotional Altmaier.

The 24-year-old twice averted defeat when Sinner was serving for a last-32 place in set four before winning the third tiebreak of the match.

Altmaier, who reached the fourth round in 2020, broke in game seven of the decider but then also failed to serve it out. He immediately gave himself another chance, though, and this time crept over the line as he secured a surprise win on his fifth match point after a thrilling final game in which he also saved three break points.

Gritty German: Altmaier pulled off a heist against Sinner. AFP

Last year's runner-up and fourth seed Casper Ruud booked his place in the third round with a 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 win over battling Italian qualifier Giulio Zeppieri.

In the women's section, 16-year-old qualifier Mirra Andreeva became the youngest player since 2005 to reach the French Open third round on Thursday. Ranked 143 in the world and making her Grand Slam debut, the Russian eased to a 6-1, 6-2 win over Diane Parry of France.

Reigning champion Iga Swiatek maintained her bid to become the first woman to successfully defend the French Open title in 16 years by cruising into the third round. The World No. 1, who turned 22 on Wednesday, crushed American Claire Liu 6-4, 6-0.

The day in numbers

7 Since 1993, **Mirra Andreeva** is the seventh player under the age of 17 to reach the third round in women's singles at Roland-Garros

1 Gael Monfils (wrist injury) has withdrawn mid-tournament from French Open for the first time in his 16 appearances at Roland-Garros

83 Casper Ruud reached the third round at Roland Garros for the fifth year in a row. The Norwegian leads the ATP Tour with the most clay wins (83) since 2020

18 Novak Djokovic has reached third round of the French Open for 18th consecutive year. The last and only time he failed to make it to the round of 32 was on his debut in 2005 when he was forced to retire during his second-round match against Coria

FRIDAY'S PICKS

MEN
- Djokovic vs Davidovich Fokina
- Alcaraz vs Shapovalov
- Musetti vs Norrie
- Tsitsipas vs Schwartzman

WOMEN
- Pegula vs Mertens
- Sabalenka vs Rakhimova
- Svitolina vs Blinkova
- Kasatkina vs Stearns

COMPILED BY NIHIT SACHDEVA

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Second round: Men: 6-Rune (Den) w/o Monfils (Fra); 4-Ruud (Nor) bt Zeppieri (Ita) 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5; 28-Dimitrov (Bul) bt Ruusuvuori (Fin) 7-6(4), 6-3, 6-4; 15-Coric (Cro) bt Cachin (Arg) 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; Etcheverry (Arg) bt 18-de Minaur (Aus) 6-3, 7-6(2), 6-3; 27-Nishioka (Jpn) bt Max Purcell (Aus) 4-6, 6-2, 7-5, 6-4; Altmaier (Ger) bt 8-Sinner 6-7(0), 7-6(7), 1-6, 7-6(4), 7-5; 12-Tiafoe (USA) bt Karatsev 3-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-2; Jarry (Chi) bt 16-Paul (USA) 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, 7-5; 17-Musetti (Ita) bt Shevchenko 6-1, 6-1, 6-2; 14-Norrie (GBr) bt Pouille (Fra) 6-1, 6-3, 6-3; 3-Djokovic (Srb) bt Fucsovics (Hun) 7-6(2), 6-0, 6-3; Varillas (Per) bt 19-Agut (Esp) 1-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1, 6-1; 13-Hurkacz (Pol) bt Griekspoor (Ned) 6-3, 5-7, 6-7(13), 7-6(5), 6-4; 7-Rublev bt Moutet (Fra) 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; 11-Khachanov bt Albot (Mda) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.
Women: 1-Swiatek (Pol) bt Liu (USA) 6-4, 6-0; Day (USA) bt 20-Keys (USA) 6-2, 4-6, 6-4; 4-Rybakina (Kaz) bt Noskova (Cze) 6-3, 6-3; 23-Alexandrova bt Friedsam (Ger) 6-2, 6-0; 14-Maia (Bra) bt Shnaider 6-2, 5-7, 6-4; Pera (USA) bt 22-Vekic (Cro) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; Andreeva bt Parry (Fra) 6-1, 6-2; 7-Jabeur (Tun) bt Dodin (Fra) 6-2, 6-3; 6-Gauff (USA) bt Grabher (Aut) 6-2, 6-3.

Dhoni successfully undergoes knee surgery in Mumbai

On the mend: Dhoni's rehabilitation is expected to take a couple of months. SPORTZPICS/IPL

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

Former India captain M.S. Dhoni underwent knee surgery at the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital on Thursday.

The Chennai Super Kings captain, who guided the team to its fifth IPL title earlier this week, travelled to Mumbai on Wednesday to consult Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala who recommended an arthroscopic surgery for him.

Dr. Pardiwala has treated several sports personalities including Rishabh Pant and Neeraj Chopra. Over the last few years, he has also been one of the BCCI's panel doctors.

"We don't know the details, but Dhoni underwent surgery on his knee this morning. We were informed that the surgery was successful and he is recovering," CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan told *The Hindu*.

Though Dr. Pardiwala wasn't available for comment, well-placed sources confirmed that the 41-year-old was discharged in the evening and he left for Ranchi, along with his wife Sakshi.

Dhoni had played the season with heavy strapping on his left knee. He looked fine while keeping wickets, but came to bat as low as No. 8 at times, looking uncomfortable while running between the wickets.

We are used to the Dukes ball having practised with it, says Axar

Press Trust of India
PORTSMOUTH

Switching from playing T20s to the longest format of the game is difficult but practising with the red ball through the IPL will help in the tough transition at the World Test Championship final against Australia, feels India all-rounder Axar Patel.

While the SG balls are used to play the red-ball format in India, the Dukes ball will be used for the WTC final.

"We knew about this before the start of the IPL. So even during the IPL, it was discussed that we will bowl with the red ball," Axar told ICC.

"We had red balls, so we were using them. You know when and how to play, how much time you have. This mental switch from white ball to red ball is obviously tough, but we have enough time," Axar added.

Indian juniors best Pakistan to emerge Asian champions

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
SALALAH (OMAN)

India's junior men's hockey team maintained its continental supremacy as it beat arch-rival Pakistan 2-1 to emerge Asia Cup champions here on Thursday.

Angad Bir Singh (13th minute) and Araijeet Singh Hundal (20th) scored for India while Pakistan managed to pull one back through Abdul Basharat (37th).

This was India's fourth title, having earlier won the tournament in 2004, 2008 and 2015. Pakistan has won the tournament in 1987, 1992 and 1996.

India went on the offensive from the first minute and quickly earned a penalty corner through its first move. It was Sudeep Chirmako, who entered from the left wing and found the feet of a Pakistani defender but the subsequent chance went abegging.

India's failure to convert penalty corner again came to light in the sixth minute when Sunit Lakra's drag-flick was saved by the Pakistani goalkeeper.

However in the 12th minute, India drew first blood when Angad tapped one home from close range after Araijeet's shot was deflected off the goalmouth melee.

Araijit, one of the brightest talents among Indian hockey's Gen-Next, increased the lead to 2-0 as he received a delivery at the centre of the striking circle. He controlled and took a turn and smashed the ball home.

India made repeated raids into the Pakistan defensive third but the finish was lacking on most occasions even as they took a healthy 2-0 lead at half-time.

However, Pakistan pressed hard after the breather and it was Basharat, who pulled one back in the 37th minute when Abdul Shahid set the former up with a perfect assist.

The result (final): India 2 (Angad Bir Singh 13, Araijeet Singh Hundal 20) bt Pakistan 1 (Abdul Basharat 37).

Memorable win: India asserted its supremacy against Pakistan to secure its fourth Asia Cup title. TWITTER/HOCKEY INDIA

Our main target is preparing for the Asian Games: Harmanpreet

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

While it narrowly lost its first two games on the Europe leg of the Pro League, the Indian men's hockey team is not losing any sleep over the results, focusing on fine-tuning its plans ahead of the big test at the Asian games in a few months from now.

"Our main focus is on the defence and maintaining our structure specially without the ball.

"There are some small changes we have made and trying new things because these games and then the Asian Champions Trophy are our best chance to do so ahead of the Asian Games, which is our main target. Anything before that is a chance to fine-tune and develop a good understanding," captain Harmanpreet Singh told select media ahead of the upcoming weekend games.

While the level of play between the top European sides and Asian teams is very different – India is the highest-ranked Asian side and the only one part of the Pro League – the team is using the ongoing games to work on its own plans.

"Most Asian teams play half-court with a lot of tight marking and here also there are teams that follow a similar structure - teams like Great Britain and Argentina are very strong in defence and they do not allow opponents to enter the circle easily. The same will happen with Asian teams also so these games will help a lot," Harmanpreet, who became the all-time top-scorer in the Pro League, explained.

"See, the top teams in the world are from Europe and when we play them, it is part of our preparations for the Asiad only. If we do well against them, then the confidence automatically goes up. We have to be sharp and our execution must be perfect against the Top Four that we are playing here.

"That's what we are trying to do right now so that by the time Asiad comes, we will get used to our roles and plans by then. Our basic plans, structure and execution inside the circle will not change," midfielder Hardik Singh added.

Learning curve: Harmanpreet says the team is using the Pro League matches to work on its game plans. PTI

Honest view

Asked about the two games played so far – the first outings under new coach Craig Fulton – Hardik was honest.

"The games were good but we have to finish better inside the circle and get our basics even better. At the same time, we last played in March while players from the other teams were in the EHL in April. That said, the past is done and we are focused on the upcoming games," he insisted.

India's weekend games will be against Belgium and Great Britain.

INBRIEF

Former Slovakia captain Hamsik to retire

Former Slovakia captain Marek Hamsik is retiring from football at the end of the season. The 35-year-old made a record 136 international appearances for his country and scored a record 26 goals.

Gukesh loses to Nakamura; Caruana in the lead

D. Gukesh blundered in time-trouble, missed a chance to recover against Hikaru Nakamura and lost in 71 moves in the second round of the 11th Norway Chess in Stavanger on Wednesday. Fabiano Caruana became the sole leader.

The results: Second round: D. Gukesh (3) lost to Hikaru Nakamura (4); Anish Giri (Ned) drew with Fabiano Caruana; Aryan Tari (Nor, 1) lost to Abdusattorov (Uzb, 4); Magnus Carlsen (Nor) drew with Wesley So (USA); Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 3) bt S. Mamedyarov (Aze, 1.5); **Armageddon:** Carlsen (1.5) bt So (2.5); Giri (2.5) lost to Caruana (4.5).

Manjeet claims bronze in ranking-series wrestling event

Manjeet secured a bronze in the Greco Roman 55kg weight category in the ranking series wrestling event at Bishkek on Thursday. The Indian beat Kazakhstan's Yersin Abyir 14-9 in bronze match.

LIVE TELECAST

BWF: Thailand Open, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 10.30 a.m.

Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan: 1st ODI, FanCode, 10 a.m.

Roland Garros: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 & LIV, 2.30 p.m. onwards.

England vs Ireland: Only Test, day 2, Sony LIV, 3.30 p.m.

FIH Pro League: India vs Belgium, SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7 p.m.

Owe everything to Gopi, says Guru Sai

The 33-year-old believes his primary objective as a coach is to ensure that the players don't make the same mistakes he did

BADMINTON

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

R.M.V. Guru Sai Dutt, former World No.19 and Commonwealth Youth Games gold medallist, says he is really enjoying the transition from a player to a coach.

The 33-year-old has played a big role in H.S. Prannoy winning the Malaysia Masters last week.

"Honestly, being with Gopi sir for close to two decades as a player and now as a coach, I owe everything to him. The kind of system he has put in place ensures that the players get everything related to training – those stimulated match conditions being very special," Guru said in a chat with *The Hindu*.

"There is a feeling of a whole family working for each other's cause in the Academy," he said.

Positive attitude

"Before the Malaysia Masters, Prannoy looked to be short on confidence after the disappointment in the Sudirman Cup earlier. But, with his never-say-die attitude, he could bounce back at the right time," Guru said. "And, credit should be given to the support staff including physio Sumansh," he added.

"In the Malaysia Masters, he decided to dig deep in every match. He was not in a hurry with those attacking strokes to score points, because the momentum shifts quickly if something goes wrong with that game. So, even if he had lost four points, he came back strongly with that waiting game to score a point and dominate. This was the decisive factor as it was the long rallies which got him most of his points," Guru explained.

Success: Physio Sumansh, Malaysian Masters winner Prannoy and coach Guru Sai. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> The kind of system [Gopi Chand] has put in place ensures that the players get everything related to training

He also revealed that he was in constant touch with chief national coach P. Gopi Chand during the Malaysia Masters to get inputs.

"The biggest challenge as a coach is to live up to the expectations of the players. Fortunately, even big achievers like Srikanth entertain healthy conversations. Having played with most of them, my task has definitely been easier," he said with a big smile.

"The primary objective for me as a coach is to ensure that the players don't make mistakes which I have committed as a player," he said.

Karman makes quarterfinals

Sports Bureau

Karman Kaur Thandi defeated Olga Helmi of Denmark 7-6(4), 6-3 in the pre-quarterfinals of $40,000 ITF women's tennis tournament at Montemor-O-Novo on Thursday. Karman will face Francisca Jorge of Portugal.

In the $25,000 ITF women's in Thailand, Vaidehi Chaudhari made the quarterfinals and doubles semi-finals with Shrivalli Bhamidipaty.

Abdulla claims triple jump bronze

Sports Bureau

Abdulla Aboobacker, the CWG triple jump silver medallist, produced a season-best 16.80m as he won the bronze at the Montreuil International Meeting, a World Athletics Continental Tour-Silver event, in Montreuil, France, on Wednesday.

Burkina Faso's Hugues Fabrice Zango, the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist, last year's World Championships silver medallist and the indoor World record-holder with 18.07m, won the gold in Montreuil with a wind-assisted 17.29m (+3.5) while Algeria's Yasser Mohammed Triki, who was fifth in the last Olympic Games, took the silver with 17.01.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Prabhath Tomar stars for YMMA

Prabhath Tomar (30 points) helped YMMA defeat Hebbal BC 77-59 in the State 'C' division basketball league.

The results:
BCYA 75 (Sohan 24, Ashwath 16) bt HBR BC 63 (Syed Zayan 22, Nipun Singh 16); Aryans BC Mysore 80 (Sarthak 20, Shakthi 18) bt Sir M.V. Diamond BC Chikkaballapur 42 (Mahesh 10); Yelahanka New Town BC (Sharvesh 18, Vineeth 16) bt YFBC Kolar 55 (Bharath 10); YMMA 77 (Prabhath Tomar 30, Prashanth Tomar 21) bt Hebbal BC 59 (Chetan 13); Dominate BC Chikkamagalur 45 (Darshan 16, Ajith 10) bt CJC 34 (Mahesh 12); DRDO 62 (Piyush 17, Sylvester 10) bt Halasur SU 43 (Roopesh 10); Mounts BC 50 (Roshan 11, Sanjeev 10) bt SBI 43 (Sridhar 27); Bangalore Vanguards 65 (Naveeth 30, Akshan Rao 18) bt Hoysala BC 64 (Prabhuraj 24); PPC 53 (Varun 16, Nihal 15) bt Pattabhiram SC 52 (Abhay 16, Mandar 12); Rajkumar BC 84 (Pranvil 17, Varun 14) bt Orions SC 76 (Ayush 28, Aebel 22).

Hat-trick by Govind

Govind's hat-trick powered Bangalore United Hockey Club past Naveen Hockey Club 7-3 in D.S. Murthy Memorial hockey tournament.

The results:
Bangalore United Hockey Club 7 (Maggi 6, 47, Govind 13, 15, 50, Chinappa 19, Ponnanna 40) bt Naveen Hockey Club 3 (Arvind 12, Sharath 38, 43); BCYA 1 (Chris Alfred 11) drew with Blue Star Hockey Club 1 (Achaiah 39).

Easy for Bangalore Boys

Bangalore Boys FC whipped Heroes FC (Channapatna) 5-0 in the BDFA 'C' division football league on Thursday.

The results: Young Dynamos FC bt Bagalkunte FC 4-1; New Lucky Star FC drew with Bosch FC 0-0; Afghan FC bt Young Boys FC 2-0; Bangalore Boys FC bt Heroes FC (Channapatna) 5-0.